

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 30th October, at Wuchow, the wife of H. J. SHARPLES, Chinese Customs Services, of a daughter.

On the 2nd November, in the Hospital of Dr. Margaret Polk, at Soochow, the wife of JOHN JURGENS, of a daughter.

On the 6th November, at Nagasaki, the wife of PERCY J. BUCKLAND, of a daughter.

On the 14th November, at No. 3, Elliot Crescent, the wife of W. B. WALKER, Standard Oil Company, of New York, of a son.

On the 14th November, at the Government Civil Hospital, Mrs. LANDER, wife of Sergeant LANDER, of the Hongkong Police, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 7th November, at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, by the Rev. S. S. Walker, J. LOVE MONTGOMERIE, of the Standard Oil Co., of New York, Singapore, to ESTHER, daughter of J. Y. FAIRWEATHER, Perth, Scotland.

On the 9th November, at H.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General, and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral by the Rev C. J. Fitz-simon Symons, B.A., EDWARD OXLEY, youngest son of C. D. CUMMING, of "Halina," Epsom, Surrey, to LILLIAS MARGARET, eldest daughter of the late DAVID BRAND, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 29th October, at Newchwang, JAMES J. CLEMENT, of the China Merchants' S. N. Co.

On the 3rd November, at his residence, Bukit Timah Road, Singapore, of cardiac failure, FRANCIS LEES NORRIS, formerly Plant Master "Sirgoor" Estate, Hassan District, Mysore, a d younger son of the late Lieut. WALTER NORRIS, Madras Army.

On the 5th November, at the Dressers' Quarters, Serangoon Road, Singapore, GILBERT WILSON, late Superintendent of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, aged 74 years.

On the 7th November, at 11.30 p.m., at S. Joseph's College, Shanghai, ANNA BASTIEN, aged 20 years.

On the 7th November, at Sophia Road, Singapore, Capt. M. L. ROBINSON, late Captain s.s. Islander, aged 42 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OFAILS.

The French Mail of the 16th October, arrived per M.M. steamer *Armand Behic*, on the 17th inst. (32 days); and the English Mail of the 23rd October, is due per P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat*, to-day the 21st inst. (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

This morning His Excellency Sir Henry Blake will leave Government House by the main gate in Albert Road and proceed past the Government Offices into and down Garden Road to Queen's Road, and thence across Queen's Road to the City Hall, where the address from the community will be presented by Chief Justice Sir William Goodman. From the City Hall His Excellency will pass down Queen's Road to the Clock Tower, and through Pedder's Street to Blake Pier. His Excellency and Lady Blake, accompanied by Sir John Keane, leave for Colombo by the *Malta* at 1 p.m. After their departure the Hon. F. H. May, C. M. G., will be sworn in at the Council Chamber as Acting Governor.

Apart from the one fatal Chinese case of plague last week, there was no communicable disease reported in the Colony.

Thirty-five million roubles have been allotted by the Russian Government to the expenses of the fortification of Dalny.

It is stated at Paris, that relations between France and Siam have been severed, our London correspondent telegraphs.

It is reported that there are over 10,000 Chinese in the Philippines who have been smuggled in. The authorities are opening a campaign to deport them.

Governor Taft of the Philippines has refused to consider the protest of the foreign consuls at Manila, against furnishing samples and information deposited by foreign merchants in the Custom House, to be used as exhibits at the S. Louis Exposition.

It is reported in Chinese official circles in Shanghai that the Governor of Honan has been commanded by special Imperial decree to prepare the Kaifeng palace for the immediate occupation of the Court, and that the Governor of Shensi has also been ordered to prepare for the Empress-Dowager the Imperial palace in Hsian.

The ex-governor of Kwangtung, who is a gentleman of some four-score years, left Canton in the China Merchants' s.s. *Hsin Fung* on Monday morning, arriving in Hongkong later in the day. He left Hongkong for Foochow next morning, the *Hsin Fung* being escorted by a Chinese gunboat. At Foochow he is to take up the position of Viceroy. Most of his staff are going up in the gunboat, only four attendants accompanying him on the *Hsin Fung*.

It is explained in Washington that the United States are co-operating with Great Britain and Japan to secure the opening of Yong-ampho as well as Wiju.

Two more Russian cruisers, the *Izumrud* and the *Jemtchug*, both only just built, are to come out to the Far East shortly. They are sister-ships of 3,100 tons displacement and 17,000 i.h.p. They have 2-in. deck armour, six 4.7-in., eight 1.8-in., two 1.7-in. and 3 Maxim guns, and 6 torpedo-tubes, while their speed is 24 knots an hour.

Re-inforcements are coming out to other Far Eastern squadrons beside the Russian. For one, the German gun-vessel *Sperber*, of 1,120 tons, 1,500 horse-power, and 8 guns, in command of Captain Weniger, is shortly expected, also a flotilla of U.S. gunboats is coming out from the United States to Manila by way of the Suez Canal. It consists of the *Decatur*, *Dale*, *Bainbridge*, *Chauncey* and *Barry*, and was to leave Norfolk about the 1st inst. Lieut. L. H. Chandler commands the flotilla, which is convoyed by the *Baltimore*, one of the American protected cruisers. The Suez Canal route is chosen in preference to the Japan one because it is impossible for the torpedo-boats to steam very long distances as they cannot carry sufficient coal, but the frequency of coaling stations along the Suez Canal route does away with the difficulty.

A mass meeting for the consideration of the Manchurian question, promoted by the leading newspapers of Tokyo, was held on the 10th inst. in the Imperial Hotel. There were present over two hundred persons, including members of the House of Peers, politicians of all shades, and leading commercial men. Mr. Minoura, Progressist, took the chair on the motion of Dr. Taguchi. Mr. Shimada, chief editor of the *Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun*, spoke on the object for which the meeting was called, and this address was followed by others. Finally the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution to the effect that the present action of Russia was detrimental to the permanent peace of the Orient, and that it was hoped the Japanese Government would take determined action without loss of time. The gathering dispersed after giving *Bansai* for the Emperor and the Empire of Japan.

A special correspondent of the *Mainichi* telegraphs that after negotiations with the commander of the Russian troops at An'ong, Mr. Hagiwara returned to Yong-ampho, Korea, on the 28th ult., and had an interview with the manager of the Timber Company, who made full apology for the incident which has caused such a stir during the past fortnight. Mr. Hagiwara received a letter of apology and had a cordial reception. It is reported that on the day previous to the arrival of Mr. Hagiwara at Yong-ampho, an endavour was made to conceal the fort. It is thought that the construction of the fort will be stopped, and wireless telegraphic apparatus erected. Mr. Hagiwara and other Japanese were allowed to inspect all operations in progress at Yong-ampho. The authorities explained to Mr. Hagiwara, according to an *Asahi* telegram, that the fort was built for defence against mounted bandits, but was now used for a recreation ground!

[November 21, 1903.]

BRITISH AND OTHER POLICY IN SOUTH CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 14th November.)

The system of alternately bullying and cajoling China, which has recently passed amongst British statesmen as a policy, is one which could have but one result—utter failure—and this is the position which now has to be faced for good or evil. When Lord SALISBURY initiated against all advice to the contrary his now discredited policy of setting up China as a defence against Russian advances in Northern Asia, a source of weakness was introduced, which needed but persistency to be fruitful in evil for British interests. Meanwhile occurred the late LI HUNG-CHANG's visit to the Coronation of the Tsar in 1896, one effect of which was that for the future Li was induced in every way to further Russian interests to the detriment of British. Had Lord SALISBURY been able to see the true significance of this new factor, the evil done might possibly have been rectified. Unfortunately, instead of taking warning in time, Lord SALISBURY threw himself completely into the hands of Li and his henchman LO FENG-LU, with the result that the British Minister at Peking was entirely discredited; and the Foreign Office became little more than a medium for endorsing the views of the Chinese Legation, then entirely ruled by Li. It was thus that, when for once the Emperor plucked up heart of grace sufficient to reassert himself and dismissed Li as unworthy of his confidence, Lord SALISBURY, setting to one side the cautions of the British Minister at Peking in favour of the interested counsels of the Chinese Legation, at once concurred in the Palace coup d'état, which for good repressed the Emperor and replaced him by the government of the Dowager Empress and her myrmidons, the Eunuch Li and YUNG-LU. Such was the direct result of the first error in miscalculating the power and tendencies of the Imperial Court, and following this grave error up by listening to the biased counsels of the Chinese Legation in London, and receiving into favour LI HUNG-CHANG, whose subserviency to Russia at the time had become a matter of notoriety to all in China.

Honestly, in all this, Lord SALISBURY was working for the integrity of China, but the party with whom he was dealing cared little for the preservation of their country when private interests stood in the way. It was sufficient for men like Li and YUNG-LU that it would last out their time; they owed nothing to the future, it might very well be left to take care of itself. The Continental nations had no such scruples regarding the autonomy of China; if Chinese statesmen were willing to treat for the disruption of the country, it was not for them to spoil the game; rather let it go on! China was big enough, and there were good pickings to be had. To men in the position of LI HUNG-CHANG nothing is so unpalatable as advice. Lord SALISBURY gave plenty of advice, but he gave nothing else. The Continental Powers, led by Russia, gave no advice, and one at least gave more substantial proofs of its interest in the play. The issue could not be long doubtful. While the British Foreign Office was listening to the specious suggestions of Portland Place, the Continental Powers were taking advantage of the position at Peking to fan the distrust with which England was regarded by the clique that had come into power round the Dowager Empress, now de facto ruler of China. The outbreak of the South African War, which momentarily taxed the efforts of the Empire, materially

assisted these intrigues; one at least of the Continental Powers concerned itself in distributing to the members of the Tsungli Yamen the lying telegrams carefully concocted by the notorious Dr. LEYDE. "See," added the chorus of the others, "the rotten reed on which England would have you rest; she is too feeble to be able to control a few thousand Boers in Africa, and yet she would dictate to you." There seems little doubt that the Russian representative at Peking went even further, and suggested the final getting rid of England; at all events he was in close touch with the principal actors who devised the subsequent attack on the Legations, and Russia's evident preparedness to send a force to relieve Peking was quite on a par with her ordinary policy when seeking a pretext for invasion. We find the same pretexts urged now in Mongolia and Turkestan that were five years ago put forward in Manchuria and Northern China. "You are unable to preserve order in these territories; we are your best friends and pity your condition, pray allow us to lend you a few thousand men; the expense does not matter amongst friends, we will settle that amicably afterwards." The British Minister at Peking of course cautioned the Chinese Government as to the necessary effect of the course it was taking, but, dominated as that Government was, by men like Li and YUNG-LU, both irretrievably committed to Russian schemes, the Minister's words fell on deaf ears. As if this were not enough, the British Foreign Office, in the face of its previous experience, took its inspiration from Portland Place, where the Minister at the time, the late LO FENG-LU, was but a creature of Li at Peking, himself the head of the anti-English faction. All this while the only sources of information availed of by the British Government were the Chinese Legation at Portland Place, or the almost equally tainted Inspectorate-General of Customs. How worthy of confidence this last source was likely to prove may be judged of by the fact that not a hint of the plot already prepared for the destruction of all the foreign residents in Peking came from the Foreign Inspectorate, and the most surprised of all the residents was the Inspector-General himself, Sir ROBERT HART, who was one of the first to fly for refuge to the British Legation.

We know what followed; the plot, originally projected against the English only, developed into an attempt to get rid of every foreign resident in China, and gave rise to a curious combination. The Continental Powers were euphemistically said to be working in "concert" with England, the concert being that at least three were notoriously working for their own hands directly contrary to British interests and British professed policy, while of the remainder some were luke-warm, mainly caring for the indemnity to be obtained, fixed for the most part in the inverse proportion of the interests jeopardised and the losses undergone, and the rest were simply tiding over the immediate crisis, in the hope of something turning up in the confusion of which they might in their own interest take by and bye advantage. Such was the position of affairs in China at the close of 1901, to which the errors and want of discrimination of the British Foreign Office had materially contributed. It would not be going too far to say that the same policy of drift has, with similar want of success, characterised our relations since.

Cholera is reported to be raging in some of the southern islands of the Philippine Archipelago.

(*Daily Press*, 18th November.)

Although, as we stated in our issue of the 14th instant, many of our difficulties with China have arisen from the defective appreciation by Lord SALISBURY of the internal weaknesses of the Chinese Government, it is idle to deny that many of the causes of these weaknesses were beyond the control of the British Government. The international relations of Europe are of such a nature that no one Power can for long continue to act in direct contravention of the feelings of the rest, and it might have been assumed that in opposing the designs of Russia in her wantonly aggressive action towards China, England would have enlisted the sympathies of the other Powers. That was, however, not to be, for various reasons. In the first instance the aggressiveness of Russia sits like an ever-present incubus on the Governments of the central states of Europe, who are only too glad to welcome a temporary respite and stand by, whilst Russia is devoting her energies to the far distant Manchuria; in the second Germany at least, not to speak of France, had visions of her own of establishing a new German Empire on the ruins of what up to the present has been China. The consequence was that the language spoken by the British Government, with its somewhat overstrained professions of disinterestedness, did not commend itself to any of the Continental Powers, and Great Britain found herself completely isolated. Then followed the treaty, offensive and defensive, with Japan, which for a time commended itself to the British public as a possible check on further encroachments on the part of Russia. It was hoped from certain statements on the part of the United States that this would lead up to a further understanding on the part of that Government for joint action. The American people were, however, loth to depart from their traditional policy of non-interference, and Russia being apparently willing to join in with the demands for the opening of certain localities to foreign trade, no further steps were taken. It is undeniable that the Japanese Government has looked for more material aid than has been afforded. It is true that the precise wording of the treaty only called for active aid in the event of Japan being attacked by more than one Power, and that event has not yet occurred; but though no active assistance has been offered, it is very well understood that all the moral aid possible has been afforded by Germany to Russia's designs, and that she has been preaching to Japan, nominally in the interests of the peace of the world, the moral duty of acceding to the demands of her encroaching neighbour. The British people, after the sacrifices of the South African war, show little desire to enter on a new campaign, the importance of which hardly as yet commends itself to the tax-payers of the United Kingdom, and the Government, which has been undeniably losing ground, has had its attention drawn off, not only to its own position, but to important fiscal considerations affecting the trade of the Empire, which in the unthinking adherence to the worn-out doctrines of the Cobdenists has been seriously menaced. Meanwhile the Chinese Government, finding her near neighbour Russia menacing her northern frontier, and being conscious that she has for ever lost the confidence of England, has yielded to that strange fascination which not infrequently attacks the inferior animals in the presence of an enemy, and renders them incapable of taking the simplest of precautions for their own safety. Both English and Japanese Ministers at Peking have done

their best to reassure the victim and endeavour to restore some feeling of confidence, but unfortunately, to his request as to whether either was prepared to render him some more practical assistance than mere sympathy, both have found themselves compelled to return a negative answer. In point of fact it is, of course, impossible to assist China, who in her present condition is utterly incapable of acting as a reasonable being, and whose first instinct, were assistance given, would probably be to turn round and bite the hand that was offering help.

Still whatever the cause, the position is by no means deprived of its humiliating aspect, and the most humiliating feature of the whole is that the *impasse* has been mainly brought about through our own fault. Always ready to take advantage of an opening of the sort, Russia has been driving home the wedge, and as the timber in front opens out under the pressure, so in a geometric ratio does her ambition. A few months ago Russia would have been willing to make terms for being peaceably permitted to occupy a portion of Manchuria: already she has widened her desires, and now goes so far as to claim Corea. Nor is her earth-hunger content with this modest meal; her agents are afield in Mongolia, and are already tendering to weak, feeble China their treacherous offers of help to restore her sadly shattered rule; and China, with the example of Manchuria before her, listens fondly to the tempter. To all appearance, it is but a repetition of the old story of the wolves; casting the children one by one out of the sledges may indeed momentarily delay the inevitable death struggle, but none the less surely it must come. Russia has not yet reached to the summit of her ambition, and has already marked out the continent of Asia as her prey. Will Germany and the other Continental Powers find themselves any the better able to withstand the assault when European Russia has in addition all the military force of northern Asia behind her? For Japan the danger is no less menacing, and is more immediate. Russia, with full possession of all northern Asia, has already a commanding fleet in East Asiatic waters. But she has more; she already owns some of the finest harbours on the Pacific coast; nor is this sufficient, for in Siberia, from the Urals to the Pacific coast, she possesses a country rich in iron, coal, and nearly all the other useful metals. She is already trying her hand in a small way at extending her arsenals in the Far East; the time will probably come within a measurable distance when she will be able to turn out of her own dockyards an Asiatic navy without requisitioning her European arsenals. The nearest historic parallel to the present condition of Europe is to be found in the thirteenth century, when JENGHIZ KHAN hung like a thundercloud over the eastern frontiers of Europe. Europe then was fascinated before the progress of the invader, as is momentarily China. It was not her prowess nor the preparedness of her arsenals that came to her aid, but the simple fact that the empire of JENGHIZ fell of its own weight, and the internal divisions of the grandsons of the great warrior compelled the advanced squadrons to beat a hasty retreat from their European conquests.

At the meeting on the 10th inst. of journalists and business men at Tokyo, it was unanimously resolved that the present uncertain situation is calculated neither to safeguard the country's interests nor to maintain peace, and the nation therefore urges the Government to take resolute steps. We take this from the N.C. Daily News.

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA RAILWAYS.

(*Daily Press*, 16th November.)

In his speech at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Law Courts on Thursday last, H.E. the Governor spoke of the coming time when drowsy, disjointed China shall have been aroused by the bustle of great railways carrying her merchandise, when the reciprocal trade of East and West will be indeed as an ocean to a lake, and Hongkong, with her unrivaled position and her arms flung wide for the unrestricted commerce of the world, will see her crowded shipping spread into the deep-dredged bay of Yaumati and waiting to load or unload at the wharves of the Kowloon terminus of the great arterial railway from Canton to Hankow. The picture is an enticing one, but, before we give ourselves up to admiration of the prospect, it is as well to think how near we are to realisation of it. Yesterday saw the opening of the first piece of line in connection with the Canton end of the Canton-Hankow railway, a subsidiary line, it is true, but still an earnest of what is to come. From Hankow southward considerably more has been done, so that we may consider that the Canton-Hankow project is within measurable distance of its consummation. It is recognised, pretty well universally now, that Canton will not be the final southern terminus of the railway, but that some spot on the coast affording deep-water anchorage for ocean liners will be chosen, whither the trains will run through Canton. The only question is, where will this spot be? For Hongkong the question narrows itself down to the issue whether the spot will be in Kowloon or elsewhere. If elsewhere, then a blow will be struck at Hongkong from which it will be impossible for the Colony to recover. Our prosperity, if not our existence, is bound up with the fact of our being the trade junction of South China and the outer world. Take this privilege away, and the Island drops (commercially speaking) to the rank of a fortress and dockyard, practically a Far Eastern Gibraltar, and little else. Hongkong cannot stand the interposition of a new deep-water port between her and the trade of Canton and the interior. Such an event would mean that the fate of Macao would be ours. This is no alarmist exaggeration, but a fact which must be recognised by sober judges. Fortunately there is an alternative. There is the alternative of building a line from Kowloon to Canton. There is in existence a concession. How long is this to be allowed to lie idle? Do the present concessionaries intend to take it up? And if not, are the prospects of the Colony to be sacrificed to their inaction? These questions have been asked, in one form or another, for years. The answer is not yet forthcoming. A few years more may pass, and the questions will not be worth answering. But what will then be the verdict of our successors and descendants?

(*Daily Press*, 17th November.)

In writing yesterday of the threat to Hongkong's position through British inaction we might appear to be doing an injustice to the concessionaries of the Kowloon-Canton railway; and this we by no means wish to do. The question is not, of course, one which can be settled off-hand. It is contended, with a great show of force, that a line from Kowloon to Canton will never pay its way, from a merely financial point of view, and that it is unreasonable to expect that anyone is going to sacrifice himself purely for the good of the Colony and in the interests of posterity.

Quite so; and therefore, admitting, for the sake of argument, the unprofitableness, financially, of the railway, it becomes more than ever a matter in which the whole Colony should show its concern. This is an undertaking which is vital to Hongkong's future prosperity; it will not pay a single firm to build a line on its own account; and time is ever passing and the danger of Hongkong being left out in the cold drawing nearer. What, then, is pointed to as the remedy? Surely concerted action. This is an affair which touches the general welfare and the revenues hereafter of the Colony. The case is one for the Colony as a whole to take up, headed by its Government. The Government of Hongkong cannot afford to sit and watch the threatened blow struck at the city over which it rules. Commercial extinction of such a place as Hongkong is more than a commercial matter, it is a political matter of the utmost possible importance. Alone of the European Powers which have acquired for themselves footholds in China, Britain has made no attempt to connect those footholds with the interior. At Weihaiwei we voluntarily cut off our chance of opening up part of Shantung by a British line. At Hongkong, after sixty years of occupancy, we have not a yard of rail running into China, while a few hours' journey away there will soon be seen a great foreign line, opening up hundreds of miles of country of the richest character and connecting Canton with one of the other greatest cities of the Chinese Empire. One grows rather weary of using the word "disgrace" in connection with British railway policy in China, and weary indeed of the whole subject. But it is a weariness which must be overcome for the sake of the future, and of the verdict which will be passed on us by those who come after us. This Colony is not a place to which we have merely come to make money. It is, in a way, a trust which has been handed down to us by the makers of Hongkong. That they at the same time made money for themselves proves (though it is not a matter which requires any more proving than it has received in hundreds of years of history) that it is possible to be a sound business man and a benefactor of one's country as well. Certainly we are not deficient in sound business men here. Must it be said that we have none ready to come forward, at this emergency, and face the action which should have been taken so many years ago? We are convinced that there will be no opposition on the part of the local Government, for their experience here has not left the higher officials blind to facts connected with Hongkong's position with regard to South China. The speech on Sunday of the Hon. F. H. MAY cannot possibly be interpreted except as a full recognition of the meaning to Hongkong of the railway question; H.E. the Governor's views, it is known, are even more pronounced. What seems to be lacking at the moment is any power of initiative. Enormous improvements have been made in the New Territory since it was ceded to Hongkong. But the New Territory will not be of much use to us merely as a vegetable-garden and a cattle-raising district. It should be important to us as the door to Kwangtung and the neighbouring provinces. In a few years' time it promises to develop into a back-door merely. To say no more, this would be a poor reward for the men who struggled so hard in the nineteenth century to make Hongkong what it is now.

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Amoy, who was alleged to be implicated in the Chinese immigration frauds in Manila, has been exonerated.

[November 21, 1903.]

CHINESE LABOUR FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

(*Daily Press*, 19th November.)

The question whether or not South Africa is to import Chinese coolie-labour to work in the mines is one which must excite a certain amount of interest in Hongkong, as in the event of the importation being decided on, it is through this port that the emigrants from China must pass and in it the regulation of the traffic must be carried out. It seems now more than probable that the mine-owners will ask for Chinese labour and that the Government will yield to their request. There is very strong opposition outside mine-owning circles in South Africa to the Chinese immigrant, but the owners have practically come to the conclusion that they cannot do without him, and that his exclusion will ruin the mines, native labour being entirely insufficient. We published yesterday an abstract of the report of Mr. H. Ross SKINNER on his enquiries into the prospect of obtaining Asiatic labourers for the Witwatersrand mines. Mr. SKINNER, it will be remembered, visited Hongkong early in this year, in the course of his mission. His task has been completed and his full report has now been published. It will have been seen from the abstract that Chinese labour is thought both suitable and procurable, and that it could soon have an appreciable effect on the production of the mines. The subject is one which we have discussed before in these columns, and we have expressed fears that the invasion of Chinese into South Africa will not be to the benefit of the country. This is the view, we may mention, which is held very strongly in Australia on the matter, and Australian papers have been propounding to their South African kinsmen what evils will result from the introduction of the Chinaman. Mr. SKINNER naturally anticipates forcible objections, and he therefore only advocates the adoption of Chinese labour under rigid restrictions, the main points of which are:—(1) Indenture for a term of years. (2) The restriction to certain classes of labour and places of abode. (3) Prohibition to trade and inability to lease and own property for such purpose. (4) Compulsory return on termination of indenture, unless indenture renewed. (5) The necessity of complying with English laws and health regulations, both foreign to the Chinese traditions. These restrictions, although they will undoubtedly deter many, will not, in Mr. SKINNER's opinion, effect the influx of sufficient numbers to meet requirements. He lays down, in his report, careful regulations to be observed with regard to the treatment of the Chinese, both on the voyage out and in South Africa; health precautions; accommodation; food; wages, etc. He would forbid all use of opium, but place plenty of cheap tobacco within the coolies' reach. And he would, when the coolies showed aptitude in the mines, give free passages for wives and families as rewards and incentives, a plan which would, he says, conduce to good work and behaviour, while the women might be given light employment about the mines.

Mr. SKINNER dismisses the question of Corean and Japanese labour very briefly, neither in his opinion being as suitable as Chinese, and in his concluding remarks affirms that, since the expansion of the mining industry in South Africa is greatly retarded by the scarcity of unskilled labour, and as a consequence the development of the whole country is in suspense, it is difficult to see how the introduction of the indentured Chinese, under strict sanitary regulations and confined to their own

mine areas, except under special pass, would be productive of other than good. He continues, (and we quote his last few sentences in full): "They would supplement the present inadequate native labour supply, filling places that white labour would fill most reluctantly, if at all. Their labour, by allowing present mines to be re-worked, and new properties to be developed, would allow of many openings for the white labourer, which, without such unskilled force, would not be at his disposal. As unskilled indentured labourers, restricted to the same departments as the natives, they will not affect the price of skilled labour, but will give such more opportunity. There may be a certain class of labour that would be affected, but such a class is affected to-day by the Kaffir, and to have to sustain it would be to keep back the development of the whole country." Mr. SKINNER is a whole-hearted advocate of the Chinese immigrant, under due restrictions, and we have given some space to the explanation of his views, without comment of our own, so as to present the other side of the question from that which we have touched on before.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Thursday afternoon. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Colonel L. F. BROWN, Commanding the Troops.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

SWARING IN A MEMBER.

Hon. A. W. BREWIN, Registrar-General, was sworn in as a member of the Council on his return to the Colony.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following standing Committees were appointed:—

Finance Committee: All members except the President (Chairman, the Colonial Secretary).

Public Works Committee: The Director of Public Works (Chairman), the Colonial Treasurer, Sir C. P. Chater, Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. Gershon Stewart (temporarily and in place of Mr. Shewan).

Standing Law Committee: The Attorney-General (Chairman), the Harbour Master, Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Wei Yuk, Mr. Pollock, K.C. (temporarily and in place of Mr. Sharp).

FINANCIAL.
The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial minutes (Nos. 54 to 57) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.
The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a report on Queen's College and correspondence arising out of the report of the Education Committee (1902).

THE CONVICT PRISON ON STONECUTTERS' ISLAND.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid the following report of the Public Works Committee on the table:—

The Chairman laid before the Committee an estimate which had been prepared by the Superintendent of the Gaol showing that the cost of the staff for supervising the proposed prison and the cost of transport would amount in all to \$3,153 per annum, the sum included for transport being \$2,600. The only saving to be effected in the present annual expenditure would be \$5,36, which is now expended in connection with using the Beliios Reformatory as a gaol. The net extra expense of the proposed prison would therefore amount to \$27,316 per annum. The only saving which would be effected by constructing a prison on the outskirts of the city instead of on Stonecutters' would be the sum of \$2,600 per annum for transport. The annual working expenses of the existing gaol amounted to \$110,176.80.

The Chairman also read the Colonial Secretary's minute of the 24th September, 1903, in which he stated that in the event of the Colonial Government abandoning the Stonecutters' site for a gaol, the War Department might contribute as much as half the cost of the new Gunpowder Depot on Green Island, which is estimated to cost \$107,000.

The Committee desire that definite information should be obtained as to the amount which the Military Authorities would be prepared to contribute in the event of the Gunpowder Depot being removed from Stonecutters' Island as proposed, and

(a.) the proposal to erect a convict prison there being carried out;

(b.) the proposal to erect a convict prison there being abandoned.

PUMPING APPARATUS AT TYTAMTUK.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Before resuming my seat, sir, I would like to mention for the information of hon. members that a temporary pumping plant has been established at Tytamtuk which is capable of raising about half a million gallons daily (hear, hear), to the tunnel which conveys the water to the city. The pump commenced work on the 1st of this month, and has been at work since with slight intermission. (Applause.)

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following additional bye-law made under Sub section 25 of Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, for regulating the slaughter of animals, and moved its approval.

All animals killed for food in a Government slaughter-house shall be killed in the following manner:—(1.) All cattle (except buffaloes) shall be killed with a pole-axe of a pattern to be approved of by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. (2.) All buffaloes shall be killed with a rifle of a size and pattern to be approved by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. All rifles used for this purpose shall be kept by the inspector in charge of each slaughter-house and used by him alone. (3.) All sheep, goats and swine shall be killed with a knife in the usual manner, except in the case of pigs which, in the opinion of the inspector in charge of the slaughter-house, are too large to be killed in this way. Such pigs shall be killed in the same manner as cattle. Provide always that nothing in this bye-law shall affect Jews, Mahomedans, or other peoples holding religious beliefs which compel them to kill animals for food in a particular manner.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

NEW TERRITORIES TITLES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal the New Territories Titles Ordinance 1902.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons attached to the Bill, are as follows:—The object is to repeal the New Territories Titles Ordinance because it has become apparent that the system of title by registration thereby established is unworkable and because it is found that the system if it could be brought into operation would clash with the Land Court Ordinance, 1900, in a manner contemplated neither by its framers nor by the Legislature when it passed the Ordinance. The conflict with the Land Court Ordinance arises from the interpretation given in the New Territories Titles Ordinance to the expressions "customary land" and "customary landholder."

The effect of that interpretation may be to override section 14 of the Land Court Ordinance and to confer "title" in a manner never intended and impossible to permit. It was never intended and cannot be permitted that title to land in the New Territories should be acquired otherwise than by grant from the Crown as in the case of land in the other parts of the Colony, but it is open to question whether the effect of the interpretation clause of the New Territories Titles Ordinance is not to vest in the Land Court the power to confer title independently of grant from the Crown. It was never intended that the Land Court should have power to do more than investigate claims to land and report thereon to the Governor. It was always intended and that intention still prevails that the ultimate right to grant or to refuse a title should rest with the Governor—an intention which clearly appears in section 14 of the Land Court Ordinance, 1900. No inconvenience will thereby be caused to anyone, because no land has yet been brought under the operation of the Ordinance.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, No. 18 of 1900.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons of the Bill are to empower the Governor to facilitate and accelerate the work of the New Territories Land Court by adding members thereto when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, No. 1 of 1903.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The objects and reasons attached to the Bill are as follows:—The object of this amending Ordinance is to effect certain amendments in the Principal Ordinance principally on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board. The practical working of the Ordinance has shown these amendments to be necessary. An amendment is also made in the arbitration clauses, by which power is conferred upon the arbitrators, provided for in the Ordinance, to take into their consideration, in determining the amount of compensation which may be payable in any given case, the fact that the rental of the premises is enhanced by reason of its being overcrowded; and by direction of the Secretary of State, amendments are made to various sections of the Principal Ordinance, by which a Sanitary Department is created, and the Principal Civil Medical Officer is constituted its administrative head. In order to give effect to the Board's recommendation, a new definition of the expression "external air" is submitted to Council. The Board having reported that section 48 of the Principal Ordinance, as it stands, is unworkable, that section is repealed by the Amending Ordinance and has been recast to accord with the Board's recommendation. The object is to expedite and facilitate legal action in case of overcrowding. The present procedure is too cumbersome. A similar course is taken with respect to sections 153 and 145 of the Principal Ordinance; and on the recommendation of the Board sub-sections (3) and (4) of section 175 are transposed in the Amending Ordinance. The Amending Ordinance also deletes the last clause (the proviso) of section 46 of the Principal Ordinance. This has been done on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board because as the section stands it is found to prevent an finality in determining the number of persons who may inhabit a floor, as by altering the size of a cubicle a man may at present increase or decrease the number of persons allowed. The proviso was a concession made at the time when it was believed that every third house would be taken down and lateral windows in cubicles thereby provided. The words "room" and "cubicle" heretofore having in many instances the same meaning will for the future have a distinct meaning, and be dealt with under separate sections of the Ordinance, and by the amendments made at the Board's suggestion, a "cubicle" (i.e., a sub-division of a room) as soon as it has a window one-tenth of the floor area

becomes a "room." The amendments therefore do not prevent "cubicles" in future houses, but only prevent the existence of windowless cubicles except where such cubicles exist in rooms which are themselves sufficiently light.

MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council resolve itself into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill having been considered in committee, The Council resumed.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

UNDESIRABLE PERSONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council resolve itself into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the recovery of charges incurred by the Colony on account of certain undesirable persons introduced into the Colony. He said—Since the Bill was last before the Council it has been before the Standing Law Committee and by a majority the Committee have agreed to recommend the Bill to the Council in the shape in which it is now in the hands of hon. members. The hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Pollock) was not present at the last meeting of the Law Committee, but it may be assumed that he would have opposed the Bill, as he is opposed to the Bill on principle. The amendments which have been effected, or rather that are suggested and recommended by the Standing Law Committee, go almost the whole way in meeting the objection raised by the hon. member?

HIS EXCELLENCY—What was it?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Bill is now limited to any person who is either lunatic, idiot, or imbecile, or suffering from leprosy, and it is made less wide in its scope than originally intended. Also the Bill makes it quite clear that masters of ships bringing undesirable persons shall have power to detain them on board unless the Principal Civil Medical Officer or the Medical Officer of Health gives permission to land them, and in case any passenger is so detained no action shall lie against any person whatsoever. I do not know whether the house is prepared to go into it, but I move that the house go into committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART—Your Excellency, in the absence of the member for the Chamber of Commerce, might I ask your Excellency to postpone consideration of this Bill? It arrived in its present form only last night, and is practically to all intents and purposes a new Bill. It is a matter which the committee of the Chamber of Commerce would like to talk over. It contains a clause that bears hardly upon the shipper. It makes him liable for an undesirable person who becomes within six months from the date of landing a charge upon the public or upon any public institution. It does not seem a question of urgency, and if your Excellency would grant that indulgence the unofficial members and the Chamber of Commerce would appreciate it very much.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—We do not want to press it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no desire on the part of the Government to unduly press this Bill, but at the same time I would like to point out that the Bill is urgent. It is only recently that the military authorities asked for the reception in the lunatic asylum of two European members of the garrison. That request had very reluctantly to be refused because the lunatic asylum is already full. Amongst the number of the occupants are to be found several foreigners who have no connection whatever with this Colony, and have no claim whatever upon the ratepayers of this Colony for their maintenance. There is a great difficulty in getting rid of a foreigner who is brought here and is cast upon the Colony and is a lunatic. Ships are very unwilling to take away a lunatic, and the negotiations of such lunatics into their own countries with a foreign government for the reception are very difficult and protracted. Therefore, Sir, I think, in the interests of the Colony and in justice to the ratepayers of the Colony,

the Government is called upon to take some measures to prevent the dumping of lunatics who have no connection with the Colony at all into our asylum, the effect of which is that our own people in this Colony are excluded from the lunatic asylum. The matter has become so urgent that the Principal Civil Medical Officer made an application the other day that we should build a new lunatic asylum at a cost of some \$55,000, and the usual increase, I suppose, of doctors, nurses, wardmasters, etc. To a certain extent I think we ought to try and see whether we cannot keep those undesirable people from being dumped among us. There is no objection to a reasonable postponement of the thing.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I will not have the opportunity later on of dealing with this Bill, but still I think it may be well that I should give you my views as far as this question about the six months is concerned. We ought to go upon a principle that is fair to the shippers as well as to the owners; that is, there ought to be some reasonable probability that there will be something to show the owners and the captain of a ship that the person was not all right when he was on board, and therefore my own opinion is that six months is too long. The probability is that when the Bill is gone on with no doubt the Government will be prepared to meet the views of the shippers in shortening that period. If I were dealing with this Bill myself I should be prepared to meet any objection on this six months score in that way, so that there would be a reasonable probability that the person would have shown symptoms on board ship.

The Bill was postponed till next meeting of Council.

BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to define the Boundaries of the City of Victoria.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE GOVERNOR'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

H.E. the GOVERNOR said.—Honourable Members of the Legislative Council. As this is the last occasion on which I shall have the honour of presiding over your deliberations, I propose with your permission to review as shortly as I can the condition of the Colony during the five years of my administration of this Government. I arrived at a time when a most important and far-reaching change was about to be made in the condition of the Colony. Hongkong, which was ceded to Great Britain in 1841, had developed into a great port, with a population of 248,000. Its area, including the point of Kowloon Peninsula, was 32 square miles. The northern shores of the harbour were Chinese territory; at Sam-shui-po, Cap-sui-moon, and Fu-ti-moon Chinese Custom-houses were established, and Chinese Customs cruisers operated within the ill-defined harbour limits to the great irritation of the community. The Kowloon extension agreement, signed on the 8th June, 1898, remedied this anomalous state of affairs in a harbour that, under the fostering care of Great Britain, had grown into the position of the third port in the world, the tonnage of whose shipping had in twenty years increased from 5,000,000 to 17,000,000. Under its provisions it became my duty as the representative of Her late Majesty the Queen to assume the government of over 400 additional square miles of territory, with a population of over 100,000, and also over the waters of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay. This agreement gave for the first time complete control over the waters of the harbour and its approaches, and removed the causes of the long-felt irritation. It will be in your recollection, gentlemen, that the taking over of the New Territory was not accomplished without some trouble. The delimitation of the northern boundary had to be arranged, and when it had been finally settled, on the 18th March, I, at the request of the Chinese Government, made through the British Minister at Peking, deferred the hoisting of our flag to the 17th April. In the meantime certain agitators inflamed the minds of the people by false statements as to the result of our occupation, to such an extent that armed resistance to the transfer of the New Territory was agreed upon. On the 14th April the fortifications erected at Tai-po Hu were destroyed, and the

police and troops who proceeded to the place preparatory to the ceremony of the 17th were attacked by large numbers of Chinese apparently under military direction. Reinforcements were at once sent out and formal possession of the New Territory was taken over on the 16th, so that our position should be made perfectly regular. After two engagements, in which the Chinese displayed considerable courage in acting against regular troops, and suffered some losses, the opposition collapsed. That these attacks upon our forces were encouraged by the then Viceroy there can be little doubt. My inability to permit the Chinese Customs to continue to function within the limits of the Colony was deeply resented by His Excellency, and he refused to send a Chinese official to be present at the ceremony of hoisting the flag on the 17th April. In consequence of the evidence of the complicity of the Viceroy with the leaders of the attacks upon our troops it was decided to occupy that portion of Samchun Valley lying to the north of the boundary line including the important market town of Samchun. This was effected by a joint naval and military expedition which met with no opposition, and the district was held for a month by a military force under command of Major Prendergast. R.E., who acquired the confidence of the people; insured the security of their persons and property; assisted them in making good roads; and ultimately, under instruction from Her late Majesty's Government, withdrew from the district amid demonstrations of good-will from the inhabitants, to whom the presence of our troops had brought freedom from taxation, security of their property, and a market for their produce. Order having been restored, the question had to be reconsidered as to the system on which this apparently turbulent population of the newly acquired territory should be governed. Two courses presented themselves—repression, or co-operation. The leaders of the people had been almost to a man actively engaged in the operations against us, but if these leaders were put aside and degraded from the position of local consideration and authority hitherto enjoyed by them, we should have been face to face with a hostile population, without the means of communicating with them through trusted local intermediaries whose assistance is so essential to good government. I have had some experience in coercion. In certain situations it becomes necessary. But it engenders an ever-deepening distrust, atropines local interest in preserving order, and with the lapse of time becomes day by day more difficult to abandon without danger to the public safety. I felt besides that these leaders would not have been guilty of such egregious folly had they not believed the scandalous statement of our intentions that were so freely circulated, and, believing them, I could not withhold a mire of sympathy for misguided men who dared to face in open fight an overwhelming power in defence of their customs and their homes. I therefore chose the latter course, and, with the able assistance of Mr. Stewart Lockhart, whose excellent work in the pacification and arrangement of the New Territory is well known to the Honourable Members of this Council, I met the elders and gentry of the districts at Tai-po Hu and Ping Shan, disabused their minds as to their fear, divided the Territory into eight districts and forty-seven sub-districts, and appointed the village elders as district elders with judicial power to deal with petty cases, giving at the same time to Mr. Lockhart a general controlling power with coordinate jurisdiction. As a matter of fact the elders, being satisfied of our just intentions, have never exercised their jurisdiction, but have left these cases to be dealt with first by Mr. Stewart Lockhart, and, after his return to the duties of Colonial Secretary, to Mr. Hallifax. Police Magistrate at Tai-po Hu, whose services are more frequently in demand as an arbitrator than as a magistrate, his decisions being readily accepted. The establishment of police stations was proceeded with at once, and a main road laid out, which has since been constructed to Tai-po Hu, a distance of 18 miles, at a cost of \$225,133. This excellent road gives access to the centre of the New Territory, and obviates the necessity of communicating by sea, a passage not unattended by danger in rough or foggy weather. The construc-

tion of the road was carried out without difficulty or opposition, the claims of owners whose lands were acquired being settled at once by arrangement or arbitration. Having arranged for police stations and the patrol of the territorial waters surrounding the 39 miles of newly acquired coast line, to check the prevalent robberies ashore and afloat, a trigonometrical and cadastral survey was entered upon, the services of a staff of surveyors and demarcators having been obtained from the Surveyor-General's department of India. The trigonometrical survey has been completed, and 345,926 lots have been demarcated. A Land Court was established to deal readily and inexpensively with the holdings claims, of which 165,231 have been presented to the Land Court. The principal cultivation of the Territory is rice, but there is also a considerable cultivation of sugar, and, in the Tsin Wan district, pineapples are grown. I found on inspection that the sugar canes were of a poor quality, and the pineapples of inferior flavour, while the primitive stone-mills in use leave a large percentage of juice in the crushed megasse. A number of canes of the best varieties were obtained from Java and Peuang and have been distributed to the sugar farmers, and two Chatanooga steel mills were also imported, and lent to large growers for experiment. Good varieties of pineapples were imported from Ceylon for distribution. While the cultivated land is now practically confined to the valleys it is evident from the terracing of the hills that they too yielded their share of wealth-giving crops in the past, and I have little doubt that suitable cultivation will be resumed in the future. In the meantime over 170,000 fir and camphor trees have been planted, and experiments are now being made with the *Agave Rigidia*, or sisal hemp plant, that may yet, I hope, introduce an important industry into the Colony, while the establishment of succulent grasses on the suitable hill sides ought, if successful, to a long way towards solving the question of the supply of fresh meat to Hongkong. Near the town of Un-long I found on my first visit a settlement of about 25 lepers, who were compelled to live in the middle of an extensive swamp, on a slight elevation approached by a rough causeway, and almost under water in rainy weather. Here these afflicted people had built, of pieces of board, miserable shanties that afforded no protection from rain or the chill winter winds. Here they huddled together night, while by day they approached the villages where though not permitted to enter the houses they were charitably supplied with food. Hard by was an unoccupied hill with a well at its base. Here a sufficient area was walled off, enclosing the well, and small houses have been erected by the Public Works department, that afford shelter from cold and rain. The lepers still obtain their food from the neighbours, or from their families, and the segregation is practically as effective as in more pretentious and expensive establishments, while the victims of this terrible disease have not perpetual imprisonment added to the miseries of their most miserable lives. At T'ai po, the headquarters of the New Territory establishment, a Chinese qualified medical practitioner has been stationed, whose services have been freely availed of by the inhabitants, and who is the public vaccinator of the district. The question of Education has been carefully considered. A school is about to be established at Un-long where English will be taught, and the provisions of the Education Code are being extended to the Vernacular Schools of the various districts. I have recapitulated the general lines of policy in the New Territory, as on their soundness will depend the success or failure of this assimilation with the Colony of a large agricultural population with a reputation for turbulence; suspicions of foreigners, and with a rooted objection to any interference with their settled habits or customs. It is yet too soon to judge of the results, but so far they are promising. The number of crimes reported in the year 1901 was 539, and this year 257, which is equal for the entire year to 342. Within the same period we have been able to reduce the police force from 171 to 104. Thanks to the firmness, fairness and tact of the public officers immediately dealing with the people, confidence has been established, and the inhabitants have learnt to appreciate the benefits of the honest performance of official duties, and freedom from that official rapacity so prevalent under the Chinese system. Of this there was gratifying evidence in 1901 during the serious disturbance in the district adjoining the New Territory when the people who, two years before, had faced our troops with arms in their hands, sent a deputation of elders to request that I would send out to the frontier a small military force to prevent the entrance of disturbers of the peace, with whom they were no longer in sympathy, desiring to pursue their avocations with the quiet and security to which, as British subjects, they had become accustomed. But in laying the foundations for the development of the New Territory, the great possibilities of which have yet to be fully realized, we must not forget the rapid growth of Hongkong and its shipping trade. In 1898 the Colony of Hongkong contained 254,400 inhabitants, its assessed value was \$4,511,947, and the total shipping entered and cleared was 17,265,780 tons. In 1903 the population, including the New Territory, as estimated by the Registrar General, is 433,660, the assessed value \$8,749,643, and the shipping 23,027,455 tons. The Revenue, which in 1898 was \$2,84,840, is estimated for the current year at \$4,583,295, and, in the Estimates accepted by you for 1904, thanks to the largely increased tender for the Opium farm, it is stated at \$6,208,308. In whatever direction we turn we find a Colony instinct with boundless activity. The reclamation of Western Praya is completed. The Eastern Praya reclamation is only delayed by demands by the Admiralty and War Office at home that this Government considers unreasonable and hopes to have modified. All around the Kowloon Peninsula great schemes of reclamation are in progress. At Quarry Bay a graving dock is being constructed by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, that will be capable of docking the largest ships afloat; while another dock is being constructed by the Naval Authorities in the very heart of the City. I wish that I could congratulate you upon the latter, but, however we may deplore the injury to the city by the severance of its continuity by the Naval Dockyard, we must not forget that no protest was made by the Colony until after the work of construction had advanced considerably and a large amount of money had been spent. Even now the Admiralty are prepared to hand over the dockyard to the Colony, but on conditions so onerous that even by this wealthy community they could not be accepted. Still, the expenditure of some thirty millions of dollars in the execution of the works on the Naval Extension and Quarry Bay docks cannot fail to increase the prosperity of the Colony. Nor has the Government been remiss in Public Works. During the term of my administration \$2,741,59 have been expended on Public Works Extraordinary. The reservoir at Wong-nei-chong, of a capacity 33,000,000 gallons, has been completed, and the reservoir and gravitation scheme of Kowloon is being carried out at an estimated expense of \$8,500. The initial works are in progress for the new Reservoir at Tytam Tuk, to hold 1,200,000,000 gallons. Blake Pier has been built, and the foundations of the new Law Courts are now ready for the superstructure of which the foundation stone was laid by me on the 12th instant. The foundations of the large new western market have been completed and the superstructure of the latter building has been begun, while a contract for that of the former has been let and for the new harbour office. A site has been acquired for the new post office, and plans for it have been prepared and approved, and a contract for the foundations has been let. These important buildings will be pushed forward without delay. But the absorbing question that has exercised the minds of the community to a greater extent than all others is that of sanitation. This question has been debated year by year as in each recurring year plague claimed its victims by hundreds, and malaria scourged the community. In May, 1902, the visit to the Colony of Professor Simpson and Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.M.G., resulted in valuable reports on the defective construction of Chinese houses, and in pursuance of their recommendations a consolidated Public Health

Ordinance has been passed, under the provisions of which the houses of the future will be of a more sanitary type, and surface overcrowding that is found in the Chinese part of the City of Victoria, will be no longer possible. An able bacteriologist has been added to the permanent staff, for whom a suitable laboratory is being built, and from his original researches valuable results have already been obtained, and still more important discoveries may be expected in the future. So far it cannot be said that we have been more successful here than in other countries in discovering the causes or checking the ravages of plague, but investigation and experiments made during the epidemic of this year afford a hope that next year may see a step in advance in prevention, and treatment, should, unhappily, the plague again develop in epidemic form. In the treatment of Malaria we have profited by the light thrown upon its causation by the experiments of Celi Ross and other investigators, and systematic arrangements have been made to control the nullahs and pools in which the anopheles mosquito has hitherto breed along the face of the hills that dominate the city. Over \$93,000 have been expended already in this work, with the result that while in 1902 3,795 cases were admitted to various civil and military hospitals, the number of cases reported this year to the present date is 2,408. It is to be hoped that with perseverance and thoroughness in the destruction of the anopheles mosquito this danger to the community will ultimately be removed. To more effectually carry out the recommendations of the two experts to whose reports I have alluded it has been decided to recommend the formation of a body of trustees at whose disposal funds will be placed for the necessary operation of remodelling this overcrowded city. That any system of sanitation with even scrupulous cleanliness could render healthy areas in which the registered population is 1,000 to the acre, or 640,000 to the square mile (and I have reason to believe that the registered population is considerably below the real density), is not to be expected. The difficulty must be solved by the creation of a new city by resumption, re-sale, and reconstruction; and with the steady operation of such a trust as is proposed there is no reason why this necessary improvement of Victoria should not be effected within twenty years, at a moderate cost to the inhabitants, who, it must be remembered, have the happy distinction of bearing the lightest burden of taxation of any colony in the British Empire. (Applause.) In the elementary principles of sanitation by preventing surface overcrowding we are far behind the Chinese, who even in their largest cities keep down the general height of their houses to one story. When Victoria has been reconstructed I hope that the four-storied tenement-house will have ceased to exist. But no reconstruction of the city, or advance of material wealth should be allowed to interfere with the development by education of the minds and character of the people. This is the foundation upon which our hopes must rest for the stability of the colony of the future, and it is not being neglected. As the result of a commission on the subject, a new code has been arranged that will improve the present system. Petitions were received from the European residents praying for the establishment of a school for the separate instruction of European children, and from Chinese residents praying for the establishment of a school for the education of the better classes of Chinese. Both proposals were approved. The English school has been established in Kowloon by kindness of Mr. Ho Tung, by whose permission a school just completed by him, at considerable expense, and presented to the colony as a mixed school for both races, was dedicated to the purpose of a school for Europeans, the Government undertaking to replace it by building a school in Yaumati, which is now in course of construction. The school for the children of the better classes of Chinese has been established by private enterprise. It was with great pleasure that I saw at last accomplished the opening of additional treaty ports and ports of call on the West River. The proposals now sanctioned by Treaty were formally accepted by the T'ung-li Yamen in two interviews that I had with that body at Peking in 1900. They had the approval

of Sir Robert Hart, and also, of the late Li Hung Chang, but the committee appointed by the Vice-roy to report upon them reported unfavourably and the matter was shelved, in spite of frequent protests, until the whole position was considered by the Treaty Commissioners, and the proposals were definitely accepted. The value of Waichow on the East River may not be so apparent at present, but it was added at my suggestion, as in my opinion it may one day be a valuable link in the direct trade between the rich East River valley to the north, and Hongkong, the land communication between Waichow and Mirs Bay presenting no engineering difficulties. (Applause.) During the eventful five years of my administration Hongkong has been brought face to face with typhoon, war, pestilence, and famine, and I look back with admiration to the behaviour of the colony in every contingency. Abounding charity and generosity accompany the buoyant energy of the community, and I find that within the five years over \$425,000 have been subscribed in aid of the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors who fell in the South African war; in aid of the famine-stricken people of Kwangsi; in aid of the sufferers by the destructive typhoon of 1900; and in aid of the fund for the erection in London of a memorial to our late revered and beloved Queen; and this in addition to the local charities of the Chinese portion of the community, of which but few realise the extent, or the economy and ability with which they are administered. It has been my pleasant duty to open two hospitals within the past year, built by the Chinese community at an expense of \$140,000, and affording accommodation to 136 patients. An equally pleasant task has been the opening this month of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital for Women and Children on Barker Road, built by joint subscription and grant from Colonial funds, in commemoration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen. I will not weary you with further figures. I desire but to emphasise some of the salient features of the time during which I have been Governor of the Colony. I have especially dwelt upon the treatment of the problem to be solved on the New Territory because on the experience of the 400,000 Chinese in this Colony is formed the Chinese estimate of British justice and of the security that is to be found under the British flag, and as surely as the water of the great rivers flow from the snow-capped mountains to the sea, so surely will the estimate of our qualities as a nation flow from sea to mountain, following the lines of trade to their extremest limits. To every one of us who lifts his eyes from the immediate exigencies of the business of the hour and looks into the future, this conviction carries with it a sense of great responsibility, and apart from our national sense of justice compels us so to deal with the Chinese people with whom we come in contact as to satisfy them that in Hongkong they will find a Government fair and just, helping to shape the destinies of a free community where commercial activity is sustained and developed by that security without which no commerce can expand. (Applause.) I shall leave the Colony with a lasting and grateful remembrance of the assistance and support that I have invariably received from the members of this Council which includes all the members of my Executive Council. Fair and independent criticism no honest Government need fear, nor prudent Governor ignore, and the changes between rough-hewn Bills and the finished Ordinances bear witness to the care with which the members of this Council, especially the unofficial members, have examined the measures introduced, and the readiness of the Government to yield to sound objections. In a Council whose discussions and debates have been actuated by a strong sense of public duty, and into which no element of personal rancour has ever entered, my duties have been light indeed, and in bidding this Council farewell I do so with a lively sense of gratitude for the happy relations that have always existed between us, and an earnest prayer that the interests of the many people who form the community of this great port and Colony will always in the future be safeguarded by members as able, impartial, and single-minded as you, gentlemen, to whom, as your President, I now say good-bye. (Loud applause.)

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER—Your Excellency,

—Speaking on behalf of the unofficial members, I can confidently say that we have all listened to your farewell speech with equal interest and regret, with great interest because of the important questions with which it deals, with personal regret because we recognise that it is the last occasion on which you will address this Council. I can assure you, Sir, that we most cordially reciprocate the expressions of goodwill that have fallen from you. (Applause.) The relations between the head of the Executive and this Council, during your Excellency's tenure of office, have been marked with the best of feeling, and I am sure that all my colleagues will agree with me that every opportunity has been given by you for the ventilation and discussion of debatable questions. For my own part, I can truly say that I have always received the greatest consideration at your hands; that for any subject I desired publicity you have afforded me every facility; and any proposals that I have had the good fortune to be able to put forward for the benefit of the Colony have received your prompt attention and your earnest support. Your Excellency will leave this Colony in many respects much better than you found it. Public works have made some progress, but perhaps more has been done to initiate them than actually to bring them to completion. You have sown where your successor will reap. Works commenced in your time will be completed during his term of office. The bounds of the Colony have been extended, the population considerably increased, its importance enhanced, and its revenue very largely augmented, so largely, indeed, that the sanitary improvements, which are now so very necessary, may be gradually carried into effect without increasing the taxation. That progress will, I am sanguine, continue. Neither temporary commercial depression nor the recurrent outbreaks of plague will be able to permanently arrest it; and I trust that Your Excellency will be able to note from your new post in Ceylon the onward march of that improvement here that you have laboured to promote. (Applause.) I must not monopolise the time of the Council. I am sure my unofficial colleagues are anxious to address you, too, and no doubt they will fill in the gaps which I am only too conscious occur in my own. In conclusion, nothing now remains but to bid you, officially, farewell, and to assure you that the unvarying tact, patience, and good temper with which you have presided over the deliberations of this body, and the conscientious care you have taken in the administration of affairs during the last five years will abide with us in the future. (Applause.)

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Your Excellency.—As senior representative of the Chinese at this Council I may be permitted to add a few words to the remarks of the senior unofficial member, with which, I may say, I fully concur. Your Excellency has presided over us for a period of five years. During that time the deliberations and discussions in this Council have been conducted without personal rancour, as your Excellency said, and with mutual good feeling, and this I venture to ascribe in a great measure to your consummate tact and courtesy and your fairness and sound judgment. You have just given us, Sir, a concise review of the salient features of your administration, and will you permit me to say, Sir, that your past administrative acts have given entire satisfaction to the community which I have the honour to represent, and have, moreover, won the confidence and respect, the admiration and affection of the whole of the Chinese community. I am confident, Sir, that they will be fruitful of the best results to the Colony and the New Territory also, which has been newly acquired. Personally I cannot bid you farewell to-day without thanking you for your invariable kindness and consideration to myself and my colleague in this Council, Mr. Wei Yuk, in our capacity as representatives of the Chinese. No one knows better than your Excellency that it is oftentimes an arduous task to represent the multifarious and many interests of this community in the Council, but by your kindness and your great consideration and assistance we have found that task made very easy for us, and sometimes very pleasant, so that I myself cannot allow this occasion to pass without thanking your Excellency most sincerely for your past kindness to us and

myself, and in bidding you farewell officially to-day I wish to assure your Excellency of my profound respect and esteem, and I desire also that your Excellency will accept our best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity. (Applause.)

Hon. WEI YUK—Your Excellency.—My hon. friend has so fully expressed my views and my own expressions with regard to your Excellency that he has left me no words to do anything more than to express my entire concurrence with his remarks. I join him in wishing your Excellency good health, prosperity and happiness. (Applause.)

Hon. C. W. DICKSON—Your Excellency.—My hon. colleague at this Council has given a résumé of what has transpired during the period I have had the honour to serve on this Council, and has spoken of the marked esteem with which we one and all look upon your Excellency, and touched also on the fairness which has characterised the attitude of the official members towards the unofficial members in this Council. In these sentences which he has expressed I am very pleased indeed to be able to cordially concur, and in wishing your Excellency good-bye I join with him in expressing the wish that your Excellency may enjoy health and prosperity for all time. (Applause.)

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART—Your Excellency.—Although a new member of this Council, I am an old resident in this Colony, and I have followed always with great interest the deeds of those who have been sent to rule over us. Comparisons are always to be avoided, and I shall content myself with saying that with the wise and liberal lines on which you have carried on the administration of this Colony I have always felt myself most entirely in accord. I think this Colony owes to you a debt of gratitude which, as time goes on, will grow larger and larger. (Applause.) For the last ten years we have been struggling with that scourge of plague. We have been learning in sorrow and bitterness the truth of the old saying, "that cleanliness is next to godliness." It has been an immense support, and it has been of incalculable value to those who had interests in this Colony to feel that those who were placed over us have the courage and devotion to labour and combat that dreadful evil. (Applause.)

I am delighted to be able to say that in the Governor we are losing and the Governor we are going to get we have examples of devotion which have inspired other men. (Applause.) I believe that, besides those things we know, this Colony is indebted to you for much work which perhaps has not been made public. The opening, for instance, of that port of Waichow would never have been effected without you. I think it is possible that that place may in future be of great importance to us. We have been associated—some of us—in an epoch-making thing in regard to the railway commencement in southern China. I believe the question which will agitate our minds here in the immediate future more than any other is whether or not this Colony shall be the open door for the arterial railway from Hankow to Canton. We will have the pleasure of listening to you once more, Sir, and I trust you will give us your views on that most important point. The keen sympathy and good-heartedness with which you have listened to and assisted in every possible way those in distress have been an encouragement to that charity by which you say this Colony has distinguished itself. We cannot forget the manner in which you took under your care that plague-stricken district in the east of the city nor of the assistance you afforded to the sufferers by the typhoon of 1900, when hundreds of Chinese were rescued from a watery grave in the confines of this Colony. I cordially endorse everything that has been said by my colleagues, and as Governor and one of the best-hearted members of the human family that it has ever been my good fortune to meet, I wish you farewell and all happiness. (Applause.)

Colonel L. F. BROWN—Your Excellency.—In the farewell address to which we have just listened, you scarcely touched on the assistance which you have given to the military forces of this Colony, in increasing the armament and personnel which are now under this command. Without your assistance I think it would have been scarcely possible to increase the garrison

to the extent it now is. But to worthily uphold the British flag in British waters requires a naval base, which requires protection. The armament and personnel now under this command have been gradually increased during your Governorship, and now the arms and the number of men in this Colony are scarcely inferior to those of Gibraltar. You have also kindly given to us the permission to make use of the uninhabited parts of the New Territory for training our men. I have been lately inspecting them on the slopes of Taimoshan—a perfect training ground; there is no training ground I know in England that is equal to it—and the men have learned very valuable lessons there. This constant working on the hillside just as they would be in actual warfare was of the greatest use in making them valuable defenders of the Colony. (Applause.) I was watching them shooting the other day. A small squad of men were ready to shoot for 25 seconds at ten small objects placed on the hillside, and before the 25 seconds were up seven of these were knocked over. Regiments that can shoot in that way need not fear the landing of almost any number of men who are not accustomed to hill-climbing or who had not shot or worked in a country of this sort. I have no doubt that if a party from a foreign country arrived in this Colony they would walk into a death-trap. I have also been watching the firing of the new guns lately added to this armament. In range and power they are equal to anything to be seen anywhere, and the batteries of small quick-firing guns are now complete. The firing from them was also rather remarkable. At the small battery at Lyeemun vessels representing destroyers going about 15 miles an hour went through the pass, and shots were put on them at the rate of 20 shots a minute. I do not think any destroyers could enter the pass, at that rate. It has been my good fortune to serve under your Excellency now, and I hope it may be my better fortune to serve under you again. On behalf of the officers and men of the garrison I wish you and Lady Blake God-speed; I wish you may enjoy in that interesting and beautiful island to which you are now going many happy days. (Applause.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Your Excellency.—The official members of this Council and the public servants of the Colony generally feel the utmost regret and sorrow that the time has come when you are about to relinquish the administration of the affairs of this Colony. It is tempered by the knowledge that you leave the administration of the Colony in the hands of an able and capable officer who has had the advantage of a long training. (Applause.) Still, sir, we have felt it to be a certainty for some time that your Excellency's services would be required by His Majesty the King elsewhere than in Hongkong, and we have felt the time had arrived in your Excellency's long and illustrious career in the public service of the Empire when you would achieve the highest distinction—namely, the blue ribbon of the service in the Governorship of Ceylon. We here congratulate the Civil servants of Ceylon and the Colony generally on the acquisition of yourself as its Governor, and we in this Colony, knowing you so well, predict for you in the administration of the affairs of Ceylon the same conspicuous success that has marked your administration of the affairs of Hongkong. On behalf of the official members of this Council I bid you a respectful farewell. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCE—I thank you very much, gentlemen, for the kindness with which you have spoken. I feel it very deeply, and I assure you that I entirely concur in one remark that the hon. Attorney-General has made, and that is in the fact that the Colony is to be congratulated that when I leave its shores on Saturday I shall leave its administration in the hands of a man who has the confidence of the whole community, who is well known to you all, who knows this place thoroughly, and whose honesty and integrity are well known to you all. (Applause.) The Council adjourned.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,210 in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, to meet the cost of supplying and erecting sixteen tanks in Nos. 9 and 10 Health Districts. Passed.

NEW ROOFS FOR THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote, Public Works, annually recurrent, to meet the cost during the current year of the work of constructing new roofs for the Government Civil Hospital. Passed.

REPAIRING A FLAGSTAFF.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$150 in aid of the vote, Public Works annually recurrent, to meet cost of repairing and removing the flagstaff at the Harbour Master's Office. Passed.

INVESTIGATING A CATTLE DISEASE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,500 in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department, under Other Charges, to meet the cost of investigating a certain periodically recurring cattle disease. Passed.

GAOL CHARGES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a further sum of \$1,500 in aid of the vote Gaol, Other Charges, for the following items:—

(1) Provisions for Prisoners \$1,000
(2) Materials for Remunerative Industry	500

Total \$1,500

Passed.

This was all the business.

THE "AMPHITRITE'S" ACCIDENT.

H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, Capt. Windham, C.V.O., arrived from Singapore in a damaged condition on the 18th. While on a voyage from Hongkong to Singapore, on the 6th November, she ran on to an uncharted coral-shoal lying in Lat. 1.16.7 N., Long. 104.23 E. and sustained damage to the after part of her false keel and probably to some plates. On arriving to Singapore it was found that the damage, though much less than might have been expected, was of such a nature that necessitated dockyard repairs, so the vessel was ordered to proceed back to Hongkong. A departure was made from Singapore on the 12th inst. and Hongkong was reached yesterday morning at half-past nine. Strong monsoon was experienced from Singapore to Lat. 16 N., and from thence to port fine weather. Since the accident, Commander Vaughan Lewis, of H.M.S. *Fearless*, has surveyed and sounded the dangerous shoal, which is, by the way, situated at the eastern entrance to Singapore Main Strait, south channel. His survey showed that the shoal is 5 yards long in a N.N.W. direction and 30 yards broad. Least depth obtained was three fathoms (low water springs) with other pinnacle heads of four and five fathoms having eight to eleven fathoms in amongst them. Close around and surrounding the shoal are irregular depths of twelve, fifteen and twenty fathoms. The *Amphitrite* has gone into dock at Kowloon. No doubt her repairs will keep her some considerable time. It is very satisfactory for everybody concerned that the shoal was an uncharted one.

The recipient of a C.M.G. on the King's recent birthday who appeared in Reuter's telegram as Mr. Kelsham was Mr. T. H. Kershaw, the late Legal Adviser to the F.M.S. Government. Mr. Kershaw was called to the Bar in 1877, and came out to the Straits in 1887 when he was Registrar of Deeds, Singapore. Three years later he became Official Assignee and four years later still filled the position of Acting Attorney-General. In 1896 he became Legal Adviser to the F.M.S. Government, and in that position, as indeed in all the posts he held in the Straits, he proved himself a most capable officer. His last post before retirement was that of Acting Attorney-General from March 1901 to March 1902, during the absence on leave of the Hon. W. R. Collyer.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH CHINA.

OPENING OF THE CANTON-FATSHAN LINE.

In the chronology of remarkable events in China, the opening of the first railway in purely Chinese territory in Southern China has now to be recorded as having taken place on Sunday, November 15, 1903. As everyone knows, several railways have in recent years been made and brought into operation in the northern provinces, but the line from Canton, the metropolis of the South, to the populous city of Fatshan, about ten miles up the West River, is the first section of railway to be opened in the southern provinces, outside the French colonial territory of Indo-China. It forms part of a line to Samshui which is being constructed by the American China Development Co. who have the concession for the grand trunk line from Canton to Hankow, which will run along the opposite bank of the river. Under their agreement with the Chinese Government, the Company have the power to issue 42,500,000 dollars, worth of fifty-year 5 per cent. gold bonds, the interest being guaranteed by the Chinese Government. Excellent progress is being made with the work. From Canton to Fatshan the distance is only 10½ miles, but by the middle of January it is expected that the entire branch line from Canton to Samshui, a distance of thirty miles, will be opened. At the same time, preparations are well advanced for the commencement of work on the grand trunk line at both ends. Out of Canton some 150 miles of the permanent way are located, and the work of construction begins at this end of the line probably in the course of the next fortnight. Including branches, there are approximately about 1,000 miles of railway to construct, and Mr. Willis E. Gray, the general manager and engineer-in-chief of the line, calculates that the work will progress at the rate of 125 or 130 miles a year.

There was not so large a crowd of Chinese as one would have expected to see assembled to witness the departure of the first train, but probably this interesting fixture had only been made known to comparatively few of the local officials and gentry. Mr. Gray had invited a small party of friends from Hongkong and chartered the *Kinshun* for their conveyance; besides these there were present on this interesting occasion nearly all the European and American residents of Shameen. The guests from Hongkong included the Commodore and Mrs. Robinson, Hon. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary) and Mrs. May, Hon. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Hamman, (Belgian Consul) Mr. M. Noma (Japanese Consul-General), Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Tomes, Miss Hancock, Mrs. C. W. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. E. Goetz, Mr. H. E. R. Hunter and Miss Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. W. Danby, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Major Dopping-Hepenstall, R.E., Captain Morley (Sherwood Foresters), Messrs Murray Stewart, J. H. Lewis, D. R. Law, E. S. Whealler, A. J. Williams, R. H. King, R. Hancock, H. Hancock, Dietrich, and others.

Five launches left Shameen about ten o'clock, conveying the guests of the General Manager half a mile up the river to the site of the railway station, a launch accommodating the Band of the Sherwood Foresters leading the way. Landing at the pier, the large party passed up to the train between lines of smartly-uniformed railway guards armed with rifles. A locomotive and half a dozen improvised cars stood in readiness to convey the party on their first railway journey to Fatshan. Altogether about 500 persons were accommodated on the train, half the number being prominent Chinese residents of Canton. Unfortunately H. E. the Viceroy was unable to attend, the day being the anniversary of the death of an Empress who reigned a hundred and fifty years ago; it was on this account also that the officials present were not in full dress.

The supreme moment arrived at half-past ten. The cars being full, Mrs. C. A. Tomes and Mrs. Gray accompanied the General Manager on to the engine, and at the usual signal from the conductor the ladies started the train,

which went off to the accompaniment of music by the band and a rousing cheer from the guests and spectators. The train went away with a speed which seemed quite exhilarating, though the rate was only about 12 miles an hour. At various points along the line of route small bodies of armed railway guards were stationed. In all, upwards of 400 of these men were employed, the majority of them being of the usual type of Chinese soldier, armed with all kinds of modern and obsolete lethal weapons, in which even the blunderbuss had its place. Whether to stand to "attention" as the train approached, or to adopt the attitude of "preparing to receive cavalry," the company commanders were uncertain, and at some points on the line the spectators were amused to see some of the men in the line adopting one attitude and some the other. Wherever there were small groups of Chinese they welcomed the arrival of the train with an enthusiasm quite unnatural to the stolid people of this country—a fact which became patent to all observers when at last the train drew up at Fatshan. Here a very large crowd had assembled, but their enthusiasm was confined to the explosion of countless crackers, the attitude of the crowd being one of intense, but respectful curiosity. Evidently the cheering at the intermediate points was an American graft, and may be taken to prove the docility and teachability of the people. This remark recalls one made by Mr. Gray to the effect that alike in Yunnan and Kwangtung the engineers have been received with unexpected favour by the Chinese people.

Perhaps to most of those who travelled over this short railway, the immediate prospect of the line being a paying concern did not look hopeful, as between Canton and Fatshan only one single village of importance could be seen, and that one contained but little more than a hundred houses. When the train had got a mile away from Shekwaitong it could have been said that there were paddy fields to the right of us, paddy fields to the left of us, paddy fields before us and paddy fields behind us, with a house or two here and there nestling amid a clump of trees. And the spectator might well have asked—Where is the traffic to come from to support this line? This question is one which could not help forcing itself on the attention. The answer is that, as in England in the early days of railways, the superstitious fears of the people are studied to such extent that the railway does not run through villages but traverses the open country in the near vicinity. When the usefulness of this means of transport becomes recognised, the railway station will, no doubt, rapidly become a centre of magnetic attraction to the house-builder, and the growth of villages and towns will be in the direction of their proximity to the railway station. It is difficult to say to what extent the railway will be used in the immediate future for the transport of produce and merchandise, but the promoters confidently rely for the present on the passenger traffic. Exclusive of the densely populated cities of Canton and Fatshan, it is estimated that the railway will serve a population of a million people in the near neighbourhood of the track.

The permanent way is made of blue clay taken from the borrow pits, which are now filled with water, making canals on either side of the railway track. At present only a single line is laid, but in the course of a fortnight the double track will be ready. Between Canton and Fatshan steel sleepers are used; beyond that point they will be of wood from Japan. The rails used weigh 75 lbs to the yard, and the gauge is the standard, 4 ft. 8½ inches. At Fatshan, work on the foundation of the station is in progress. This station is being built at an estimated cost of \$7,000, gold. It will be a brick structure with tiled floors in the first-class waiting rooms, and concrete platforms. Besides the usual offices, dwelling rooms for the station staff will be provided. The fitting-shops and locomotive-sheds will be at Shekwaitong, and these are to be fitted on the most modern lines. Until the nature of the traffic to and from Canton has been demonstrated by actual experience, nothing can be said as to the design and character of the Canton station. A regular service will be commenced on the 1st December with the cars improvised for the formal opening of the line. Thirty passenger cars and six locomotives are now on the way out,

as well a number of freight cars, but they are not due to arrive until the middle of December. The locomotives at present in use were formerly doing service in New York on the over-head railway.

The trip to Fatshan was greatly enjoyed by the guests, the weather being gloriously fine. The train occupied 47 minutes on the journey up and 53 on the way back. Leaving the train at the Canton terminus, the party were conducted to a large matshed, the interior of which was bedecked with flags of all nations. Here tiffin was served to several hundred guests. Mr. Willis E. Gray presided, and on either side of him at the cross table sat the Hon F. H. May, Colonial Secretary of Hongkong; Commodore Robinson, Hongkong; Mr. W. Kickpatrick Brice, representing the Company constructing the line; His Excellency Chang, of Canton; Mr. Robert M. McWade, Consul of the United States; Mr. Eiswald, German Consul; M. Guillen, French Consul; M. Th. Hamman, Belgian Consul; Mr. J. D. de Morais, Portuguese Consul; Mr. Noma, Japanese Consul; Taotai Wun, Director-General of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in the two Kwang Provinces; Taotai Liang, who is acting as Mr. Gray's private secretary, and other Chinese representatives of the City. Mr. James Scott, the British Consul-General, who accompanied the party on the trip, was unable to remain to tiffin.

After the repast the Band played in the order named the National Anthems of the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Japan, France, and China.

THE SPEECHES.

The CHAIRMAN, who, on rising was received with loud applause, said—It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your safe return (applause and laughter). When I say that the only fear I have had about the trip was simply about the tiffin, and, now that we have got through I feel like congratulating you on that.—(Laughter.) It may interest you if I briefly give you some idea of what this day means to the people and the country which has inaugurated a movement resulting in the construction of the Yuen-Han railway. In 1898 Mr. Basche, an American gentleman, secured a concession for the construction of the railway. But he had no money! He went to America and there sought the assistance of one of the ablest and best known statesmen of the day—the Hon. Calvin Brice—(applause). As you probably all know, some few years ago Mr. Brice, to our deep regret, was, by Divine Providence, called away to that bourne from whence no traveler returns, and when I say to you that it was a sad blow to this enterprise I only partially tell you the effect. However, the enterprise is going on, as all things go on after we are gone. On the 14th June 1902, an imperial Edict was issued which authorised the construction and approved the contract which had been made with Mr. Brice and his agents. Serious delays occurred until the middle of December, 1902, when we began work. We were well started by the 1st January, 1903, and you have seen to-day the beginning of the Hankow-Canton railway. There are those here who have contributed very greatly to the construction of that portion of the line now ready for operation—our chief engineer, Capt. Mead, our assistant engineer Justin Burns, our divisional engineer Farnham, our resident engineers Vernon, Howe, Williams, and others whose names fail to come to me at the moment, but who are entitled to as much credit as the others, and whose assistance has been equally appreciated. Last, but not least, we have with us His Excellency Chang who has done more to placate the disturbing elements along the route of this line than I can tell you. The only mistake that was made about him was that he was not born an American. (Laughter). He is a hustler. (Laughter and applause). The construction of the Canton-Hankow railway means a great deal to China; it means more for every nation of this world than people generally understand; it means the opening up of commerce not only to the United States but to Great Britain, Germany, France, and all the nations of the world. (Loud applause). In that result we are all interested. It is not a question of flag, but a question of how many dollars each one of us is going to get into his pockets when this undertaking is well in hand. While this enterprise is

a great one, there is in it a missing link that awaits closing up, and forging by my British friends who have been messeng about it for years—completion of this great trunk railway to Hankow by building the line from Canton to Kowloon which they have a concession for, and which will do for Hongkong more than any one thing that can be done for it in a commercial way. (Applause). I have pleasure in introducing to you Mr W. Kirkpatrick Brice, the son of the late Hon. Calvin Brice, who represents our President, Mr. Barlow Parsons, here to-day (Applause).

Mr. BRICE said—Ladies and gentlemen. I am in no sense a speaker, and I do not wish to mar the enjoyment of this afternoon by asking you to listen to more than a very few remarks I have to make as the representative of the American company which has undertaken the building of this railway for the Chinese Government. I feel that I must in propriety, say one or two words, and in the midst of the general festivity I hope you will pardon me if they are of a somewhat serious nature. The fact is that this event, the opening of a few miles of railway in Southern China, has in my opinion, a very serious aspect. There is a dignity, a solemnity underlying the occasion, which perhaps you have all felt in a vague sort of manner, but which may be expressed clearly and emphatically if only for a fleeting moment. This short line of railway you have seen to-day is but the beginning of a longer line, the great trunk line which, in the near future, if all goes well, will penetrate the heart of Southern China and connect two of her greatest commercial cities—Canton in the South and Hankow in the North. This means a great step forward in the progress of China toward that stupendous wealth in commerce which is her natural heritage and which those who wish her well already anticipate as the near Golden Age. But beyond this more immediate and more obvious result, there is one of even greater significance. The railway system of this country on which the Government has embarked with a few misgivings and an occasional backward step will do more to unify the nation and make it strong than all the fleets and armies which her countless population could assemble (hear, hear, and applause). I need not remind an American that it is our network of railways above all which has gathered together the diverse and distant sections of our big land and held them firmly united, which enabled a medley of discordant states to grow into a strong nation (applause). And you representatives of European nations, you will, I have no doubt, agree that railways have been amongst the most potent factors in preserving the peace of Europe. I should like to emphasise on this occasion that we desire all of us, I believe, without exception to see China unified and strengthened, so that nothing could tear her asunder, and wish to see her live long in her strength and be a friend among the nations. And one word in particular to our honoured guests, the representatives of the Chinese Government. We Americans have come among you to help you in your progress. We come peacefully and we mean to do justly with you and your people, (Applause). We are still at the beginning of our great work. Doubtless some misunderstandings may arise in the future as they have unfortunately arisen in the past, but we wish again to assure you that it is our desire to act in harmony with your customs and to do no violence to your sentiments. I return, we ask some indulgence from you because we have much to learn, and we come with a new idea startling in its novelty and by its very nature revolutionary. But I believe that with this earnest effort by both of us to show consideration each for the other we shall get along most admirably and become most excellent friends (hear, hear, and applause). I ask you all to join me in a toast to the Chinese Empire and its youngest railway, (Applause).

Mr. Robt. McWADE, Consul-General of the United States, next addressed a few humorous remarks to the assembly and said he was proud to be present on so notable an occasion and to congratulate Mr. Gray and the company he represented upon the progress that had already been made with the enterprise.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon the Hon.

F. H. May to speak, facetiously remarking that he hoped Mr. May would tell them something about the Kowloon-Canton railway project. "I want to say," the Chairman added, "that when the first train comes in from Kowloon to Canton I shall be in forefront waving the British flag to my friend, Mr. May, who I hope, will be one of its first passengers. (Applause)."

Hon. F. H. MAY said:—Mr. Gray, your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I am afraid that I stand before you rather in the position of an impostor. I was asked this morning by Mr. Gray to make a few remarks, but I have very little to tell you. I might perhaps inform you of a few things you may not know, and I certainly would like to tell you a good deal that I know, but I am afraid that, being in the position I hold, I cannot let myself go. Some people say that some of the happiest moments of our lives are those that we live in the pleasant recollections of the past. Now, that has not been my fortune. I have only been at one opening of a railway before the one in which we have taken part to-day. It was the opening of a small branch railway in Ireland, in the county of Meath, and I was sitting in the carriage next the engine with a friend of mine when the train brought up. We sat for some moments and then, as it did not go on, we looked out of the window, and I saw the engine-driver inspecting his engine all over, and then I saw him climb up again into his place, and his stoker said to him, "Mickie, what ails her at all?" "I don't know, Pat," said Mickie, "what ails her: but I know this, I will drive her or 'bust' her." (Laughter). And you may imagine my feelings when he put on full steam,—and he did "bust" her. Fortunately, the explosion was not a serious one, but I and the rest of the occupants of the train had to walk home (laughter). How would you have liked to have walked back to-day from Fatshan? I imagine you would have got here very thirsty. Things have been managed better by Mr. Gray and his colleagues whose arrangements have been admirable and who seem to have ingratiated themselves with the native population, who greeted us to-day with nothing but smiles and acclamation. I see my friend, Mr. Reid, very busy with his pencil, and I know everything that we have done and said to-day will be duly recorded in the daily papers to-morrow or the next day, and when I see myself surrounded by some of the brightest spirits of Hongkong and Canton, and an abundance of those material spirits that gladden the heart of man, and the galaxy of youth and beauty that is gathered here from the Colony and Shameen. I feel sure that some critic will ask, "Why did Mr. Gray choose the Sabbath day for the inauguration of his railway?" I think you will find the answer in the eloquent remarks made by Mr. Brice, who has told us, and I heartily agree with him, that this is a very important enterprise; it is no small child's play. It is a serious national and international undertaking (hear, hear), and you all know the old saying, "The better the day, the better the deed" (applause). So, in my opinion, Mr. Gray was well advised in choosing the best day of the week for the best day's work that has been done in and around Canton for many years (applause). Mr. Gray has emphasised the importance of linking up the Hankow-Canton Railway with Kowloon. I will say this much, that one of my dreams of the near future—I am rather a man that lives in the future—is to ride on that self-same link, and I hope that Mr. Gray, as he says, will be there too. When I first came to Hongkong some twenty years ago, she was a mere child. I have seen her grow through her "teens," and, in 1899, she blossomed into full womanhood, blessed with that acquisition which all mothers prize best of all others, that is a healthy and thriving offspring. That offspring is called the New Territory, and without development it cannot thrive any more than this vast empire can. We want a railway to make it thrive; we are closely bound together with our Chinese friends, belonging to the vast Chinese Empire that lies so close to our borders, but we are not bound close enough. We like them so much; we gain so much from our intercourse with them that we want a still closer bond, and that bond is the iron road (applause). Ladies and gentlemen, I drink to the health

of the Kowloon-Canton Railway of the future (Loud applause).

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the Irish story related by Mr. May was very pretty and pat, but as Mr. May had omitted to do so, he would take the opportunity of giving it a local application by saying that he sincerely hoped the people who had the concession for the line from Kowloon to Canton would build that railway in the very near future or "bust" —(Laughter and applause).

His Excellency CHANG CHEN-HSEN, late director of the Land Department, Canton, (a metropolitan officer with the honorary title of Vice-President of a board), delivered a speech in Chinese, which was afterwards translated into English in the following terms by Taotai Liang, who was educated in Queen's College Hongkong:—Ladies and gentlemen, His Excellency says that he feels greatly honoured by the kind invitation of Mr. Gray, the General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Yuen-Han line, and all the Directors, and Taotai Li, to attend the opening of the section of the line between Canton and Fatshan. His Excellency cannot allow such a great occasion to pass off without making a few remarks upon the history and success of this enterprise. It was about six years ago that His Excellency Sheng Kung-pao took up the question of building the line, and we were gratified by seeing the contract entered into between the Chinese Government and the American China Development Co. The construction of the line was actually commenced about a year ago, and His Excellency Chang, who is connected with the enterprise in the capacity of land director, is glad to say that he has met with great success in purchasing the land for the line, of course, by the voluntary assistance of the local officials and the native gentry generally. It will be needless, His Excellency says, for him speak of the great importance of a railway in a country like China with so much wealth and so large a population. The section which has now been completed is only 10½ miles, and under the very able management of Mr. Gray, who has an efficient force of engineers and men of other capacities, for whom His Excellency entertains the greatest respect, His Excellency is sure that the whole line—about 1,000 miles long—will be completed with the same success (applause). His Excellency therefore requests you, gentlemen, to join him in drinking to the success and prosperity of the Canton-Hankow Railway (Applause).

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART, who was also called upon to speak, observed that the future of the trade of China and Hongkong was most intimately associated with the construction of railroads in the Great Empire of China, and such influence as he possessed he would use to promote the furtherance of railway construction in China, especially the line between Canton and Kowloon.

Herr EWALD, German Consul-General of Canton in the absence of Mr James Scott, the British Consul-General and *doyen* of the Consular Body in Canton, next spoke. He joined issue with Mr. Brice's statement that railways were the best and strongest factors in unifying a nation. Being a German, he would dare to say that there were other factors of the same importance and, according to his view, the Army and Navy of a nation were the most important.

Commodore Robinson, and Captain Anderson, U.S.N., as representatives of the Navy, added their congratulations upon the progress made with the railway.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that unfortunately the *taipan* of the local American firm interested in the railway (Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co.) had been suddenly stricken with loss of voice, and it naturally fell upon his next in command to say something for the firm. It was his pleasure to call upon Mr. Richard Hancock, a British subject, to tell the assembly all he knew about American commerce in China—(Laughter and applause).

Mr. HANCOCK, instead, took the opportunity to propose the health of Mr. and Mrs. Gray and family, a toast which was received with musical honours and the utmost enthusiasm.

Mr. GRAY, in a few appropriate words, acknowledged the compliment, observing that whatever little success he had achieved in life he owed to his wife's good advice and watchfulness.

This terminated the toast list, and Mr. Gray having declared the section of the railway opened, the company dispersed.

THE A.D.C. AT THE THEATRE.

"LORD AND LADY ALGY."

In attempting R. C. Carton's successful comedy *Lord and Lady Algy*, the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club set themselves a formidable task, but the Club has ever been wont to make a brave effort, and certainly Saturday night was an occasion on which ambition was justified. We do not mean to say that the performance was perfect, but it was assuredly better than that of any of the professional companies which visit Hongkong, with the exception of the Broughs. It is not that the acting was uniformly good, for there were degrees; but in one and all of the cast there was enthusiasm and determination to go the whole way, to borrow a sporting phrase. It is this characteristic which is one of the chief charms of the A.D.C.'s work, and it was well marked on Saturday. The one drawback, in our estimation, was that the action dragged too much. There was only one absolute pause, owing to the delay of one of the actors in the Ball scene in appearing on the stage; but there was in several places a need of quickening up. Doubtless much of this will disappear to-night. The defect is a small one compared with the many excellencies exhibited by the company.

The plot of the play is familiar—it has been seen before on the Hongkong stage—so that it is with the interpreters only that we need concern ourselves. To begin with, it must be admitted that one performer stood in a class by herself. Others were good, but Mrs. Grace was more than good. She is a finished actress, on whose possession the Hongkong stage has every reason to pride itself. A better *Lady Algy* we do not want to see. Ease, voice, charm of manner and the instinct for comedy are all hers, and the result of these qualities is a happy one. The audience was not slow to show its appreciation, but Mrs. Grace fairly won all the applause which she got. *Lord Algy* was in the hands of Mr. Butterworth, whom Hongkong has been anxious to see in the part, owing to the reports of his successful treatment of it in Shanghai. His was a good performance on Saturday. At first he appeared a trifle frigid, but he improved rapidly; and, though he was one of the chief sinners in protracting the action, he had at least the excuse that his part demanded a certain amount of "going easy." It is much in his favour that in the Ball scene he played that most difficult of all stage-parts, a drunken gentleman, without vulgarity. Generally speaking, he was hardly enough of a sportsman. Nevertheless his rendering of this essentially "Hawtrey" part was enjoyable.

No other character of course stands out so much as the title-roles. But there is much opportunity for a lot of good acting in half-a-dozen other parts. Mr. Bird rose to the occasion as the Duke. Perhaps a little too smile, he yet admirably indicated the reasons why his younger son held him in such awe. In the hat scene he was very amusing. Mr. John Hays's *Quarmby* was not his best appearance in amateur dramatic circles, but we doubt whether the part could have been assigned to more capable hands. Voice and manner were excellent; the make up not so good. Both Captain Bushe and Mr. F. H. Bell made hits as Coldstream officers, particularly Mr. Bell, whose laugh was inimitable; his make-up in the second act was a perfect disfigurement, if not what *Lord Algy* would call "wonderful pretty." Surgeon Norris was a little disappointing as *Tudway* and altogether too melodramatic in Act II; he was better in the quieter scenes. Smaller parts were efficiently played by Major Baker-Browne, Lieutenant Davidson and Hodgson (a very high-toned reporter), Messrs. Chapman, Hudson, and Silas; Mr. Northcote's *Swpson* is perhaps also a small part, but he managed to invest it with a good deal of humour and to keep the house on good terms with him. Of the ladies we have already mentioned Mrs. Grace. Mrs. Patrick Jones had the next largest speaking part; she played it with no slight charm and looked very well, in the first and thirds acts especially. Miss Zealand's *Lady Pamela* was an excellent

aunt to her niece Ottoline, while Mrs. Pemberton imparted a charming air of youth and innocence. Mrs. Baker-Browne might have been more querulous as Mrs. Vokins, but was always amusing, and Mrs. Chapman made the most she could of the role of Emily Cardew.

The costumes and mounting of the piece were alike first-rate. The majority of the former, at least as far as the fancy clothes are concerned, came from Shanghai, but were copied from the original dresses. The scenery was as good of its kind as we have seen here. The orchestra was that of the Philharmonic Society, under the able conducting of Mr. George Grimble. The stage manager was Mr. George Caldwell, who was assisted by Major Bunny, A.O.D., while Mr. H. C. Nicolle was acting manager. The whole performance was produced under the direction of Mr. E. W. Mitchell, evidence of whose constant and conscientious labour was abundantly manifest. The police had fortunately been instructed to regulate the traffic during the performance, so that no such interruptions to hearing were present as they generally are in the neighbourhood of the City Hall at night.

The following is the complete list of characters:—

Duke of Droneborough Mr. H. W. Bird
Marquis of Quarby (his elder son) Mr. John Hays
Lord Algernon Chetland (his younger son) ...

Mr. H. T. Butterworth

Hon. Crosby Jethro (of the Coldstreams) ...

Capt. Bushe, R.A.

Capt. Standige (of the Coldstreams)

Mr. F. Hayley Bell

Brabazon Tudway Surgeon Norris, R.N.

Richard Annesley Mr. A. Chapman

Montague Denton Lieut. Davidson

Mr. Jeal (a reporter) Lieut. Hodgson, S.F.

Kinch (a sheriff's officer) Mr. Hudson

Swpson (valet to Lord Algernon)

Mr. M. Stafford-Northcote

Mawley Jemmet (Lord Algernon's jockey) ...

Mr. M. D. Silas

Wyke (Tudway's footman) Major Baker-

Browne, R.A.

Lady Algernon Chetland Mrs. Grace

Lady Pamela Mallinson Miss Hazeland

Ottoline Mallinson (her niece) ... Mrs. Pemberton

Emily Cardew Mrs. A. Chapman

Mr. Brabazon Tudway Mrs. Patrick Jones

Mrs. Vokins (her mother) Mrs. Baker-Brown

Guests—Messrs. Arthur, Becke, Bain, Holmes,

Henderson, H. A. Laminert, L. Lammert, F. Lam-

mert, and O. D. Thomson. Mesdames Bateman,

Bunny, Henderson, Holmes, Preston, F. Shaw

and E. Shaw.

The house was one of the best on record for the

A.D.C. we believe, about \$1,200 being taken.

Crowded houses witnessed the performance of

the piece on Monday and Tuesday.

The Hongkong A.D.C., having successfully got through the three performances of *Lord and Lady Algy*, with the record takings in its history, is now preparing busily for the production of *The Importance of being Earnest*, the late Oscar Wilde's fascinating comedy, perhaps in its class the most brilliant, certainly the most witty comedy of the last century. This will be staged three times, on the 11th, 12th, and 14th December. The cast will be as follows:—

John Worthing Lt. Smith, R.A.

Algernon Moncrieff Lt. Davidson, R.A.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. Capt. Bushe, R.A.

Merriman Mr. Brent

Lane Mr. H. Hancock

Lady Bracknell Mrs. J. Hastings

Hon. Gwendoline Fairfax Mrs. Pemberton

Cecily Cardew Mrs. Tulloch

Miss Prism Mrs. Fitzwilliams

'There is a possibility, if a sufficiently strong chorus can be got together, of the A.D.C. performing about the end of January *His Excellency*, the comic opera by W. S. Gilbert and Osmond Carr, which was originally to have been given by the A.D.C. early in 1901, but was postponed indefinitely on account of the death of Queen Victoria.

It appears that H.M.S. *Certurion* is commissioned, not for this station, but for the Mediterranean to relieve one of the battleships there, which will then come on to China. H.M.S. *Europa* is commissioned for the China station.

HONGKONG LICENSING SESSIONS.

The annual Licensing Sessions for the city of Hongkong was held on the 17th inst. at the Magistracy. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith presided, and the other Justices present were Messrs. E. R. Hallifax, J. H. Kelly, E. D. C. Wolfe, R. C. Wilcox, F. Browne, C. McL. Messer, A. Shelton Hooper, R. H. Craig, G. T. Veitch, W. H. Davis, P. W. Sergeant, A. Rumjahn, Lau Chu Pak, and C. A. D. Melbourne.

IRREGULAR APPLICATIONS.

The first application to come on for consideration was by Moritz Stenberg for the International Hotel, 318, Queen's Road.

The CHAIRMAN said he noticed that one of the three householders who guaranteed the applicant's respectability of character belonged to Carlowitz & Co.: did Carlowitz & Co. supply the applicant with liquor?

APPLICANT—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN said that in that case the application was not in order. Under the Liquor Licences Ordinance the householders who signed as sureties must not be implicated in supplying liquor to the applicant. He did not think the Justices could sustain this application.

Mr. HOOPER suggested that they might adjourn it.

The application was adjourned, and the applicant was instructed to put in a fresh application to-day.

A similar irregularity was found in several other applications, and in each case the applicant was instructed to put in a fresh one in proper form.

BAY VIEW HOTEL.

James Christie applied for a publican's licence for Bay View Hotel.

Mr. HALLIFAX said he understood that the applicant had been informed that the Government intended to resume this property next year.

APPLICANT stated that he had not been so informed.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that of course if he applied for a year's licence he would have to take the risk of Government determining the lease before the expiry of the licence.

Application granted.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

Harry Haynes made application for a licence for the Hongkong Hotel.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that this application had not been properly filled up. The Ordinance required that three householders should be security for the applicant, whereas here only two had signed—Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and C. Mooney. Applicant had been informed by the First Clerk of the Magistracy that his application was not in order, yet no attempt had been made to remedy it.

Mr. HOOPER—We might adjourn it.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, but I do not think we can deal with an imperfect application.

Mr. WILCOX—if you will take a third name now, Mr. Grist is ready to sign.

The CHAIRMAN stated that it was clearly laid down that a perfect application must be sent in ten days beforehand. He must give it as a ruling that this was an imperfect application which they could not entertain at that stage.

Mr. VEITCH thought it showed great carelessness when an applicant was warned to amend his application and did not do it.

The CHAIRMAN—I agree with you.

Ultimately the application was renewed and Mr. Haynes instructed to send in a new application in proper form.

ABSENTEES.

Several applicants were not in attendance or represented.

The CHAIRMAN made the remark generally regarding such cases that when the applicants were not present or represented they must take it that they did not want the licence. At a later stage he stated that such applicants must apply at once in order to be in time for the granting of their licence from the 1st December next. They would be considered at a meeting of Justices to be held subsequently.

MAIN HOTEL.

Lou's Comar applied for a publican's licence for the Main Hotel, 59, Des Voeux Road Central, which at present has only got an adjunct licence.

Mr. E. J. GRIST, solicitor, appeared on be-

half of the applicant. He believed, he said, that the house had been conducted in every way as it ought to be, and the premises were most suitable for a publican's licence. It would be an advantage to the Colony to have such a licence there; it would relieve the congestion in Queen's Road, where these houses were tumbling on the top of one another.

Mr. HALLIFAX said the police had strong objections to granting a publican's licence for these premises. The locality was not one in which such a licence was needed, in the second place there had been already one conviction against this licensee during the last year for breach of his adjunct licence, and there were also various suspicious facts that had come to the ears of the police about the manner in which the house was conducted that led them to object strongly to the granting of this application.

Mr. HOOPKE enquired what the licensee's offence was?

Mr. HALLIFAX replied that he had used his adjunct licence to cover what was practically a publican's licence. Liquor was sold under the same conditions as it would be under a publican's licence.

Mr. GRIST remarked that it was a question whether the liquor was supplied as an adjunct to the meal or the meal as an adjunct to the liquor.

Mr. HALLIFAX—It was found against him.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no doubt they must accept the decision of the Magistrate.

The application was unanimously refused.

The Justices then considered applicant's request for a renewal of his adjunct licence, which was granted by a majority, and a strong caution was given to the licensee to see that no further breach of his licence occurred, in which case the Justices would take a severe view of the application next year.

REUSSED.

An application was made by Ng Kwock for an adjunct licence for 2, Bulkeley Street, Hunghom.

There was a police objection, and Mr. Grist on behalf of the applicant withdrew the application.

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

SAN ON, 12th November.

CHAN LEONG KIT.

The reported dismissal of the San On M. gistrate, Chan Leong Kit, is untrue. He was ordered to Canton, from whence he returned to San On with a party of "braves" numbering about 200. He has now gone up country to assist in putting down robber bands, which at present infest the borders of San On and Kwai-chiu. Meanwhile, the control of the San On district has been vested in a certain Ma Tak San. Chan Leong Kit on performing his mission is expected to return and take up his old appointment.

AGRICULTURE.

The rice-crop is three-quarters out. A high wind has been prevalent the last few days, and has damaged the uncut portions, shaking the ripe ears, and leaving in some places entirely bare straw. Sweet potatoes are being largely planted and a little barley sown in places. The H. K. and N. T. Cultivation Co. at Santin are making a promising show with the new vegetable crop.

Vegetables and fruits are wonderfully cheap in Shumchun. No green vegetables sell above 1 cent per catty. Pumeloes may be had for 5 cents, and the best oranges at 1 cent each.

This year, no cattle or pig disease has been reported on either side of the frontier line.

In many of the villages, especially in the N. T., old houses are being repaired, and also new ones built. This gives one the idea that the people have at last realised their past centuries of ineptitude, and intend to take some interest in their personal surroundings in future.

SPORT.

Foxes and civet cats are numerous; the former are generally very mangy. Small musk deer are seen occasionally. Quail abound, as also do partridges, in certain dry, scrubby places. The big "shell back" pigeon has not been in evidence much of late. There are the usual rumours about tigers around, and sometimes a pig disappears, although in these instances the tiger is sometimes two-footed!

CUSTOMS SERVICE

That popular officer, Mr. W. M. Whaite, Shataukok, has recently been promoted to first-

class tidewaiter. Mr. F. Moore has been transferred from Shataukok to one of the Customs launches, vice Mr. Whitmore to Shataukok. Mr. J. B. Möller, has been transferred to Namoa.

PORT ARTHUR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Port Arthur, 31st October.

SIBERIAN BUTTER.

The Chinese Eastern Railway Company is in some respects like the elephant that can pick up a pin or knock down a tree with its trunk, or like one of those steam-hammers that can crack a nut without injuring the kernel or squash bars of iron as if they were made of putty. In other words, while looking after a railway which may be justly termed, I think, gigantic, it goes in for such apparently small items of business as the sale of butter. Whether this is quite fair to the private merchant or not I do not stop to enquire, but it could not fail to gladden the soul of M. de Witte if that politically moribund statesman were now in power, for its tendency is to give that justly famous produce of Siberia, butter, a good fillip, and the system cannot fail, if extended to place many lines of business in the hands of the powerful Railway Company which may almost be said to represent the Government. According to its advertisement, the Commercial Agency of the Chinese Eastern Railway Company will bring butter in special wagons from Siberia and send it to the houses of purchasers in Dalny and Port Arthur—all for a ridiculously low price. Good fresh butter now costs one rouble a *funt* (one English lb.=1.11 *funta*), and the Railway Company proposes to sell it a fresh butter at 16 roubles a *poot*, i.e., at 40 kopecks. Decidedly most of the people here will hail this innovation (for though it is the wholesale price, it will of course mean a fall in the present retail price) with joy, for most of them are Russians who have lived in Siberia, and who cannot live in comfort without plenty of butter, and I suppose they would all like to see their own country's trade extended. There is no reason, indeed, why Russian butter should not make its way to Japan and Shanghai and further.

THE TIMBER COMPANY.

The Yalu Timber Company has now had notices printed in Chinese and Russian announcing that it has obtained from the Corean Government the privilege of cutting timber along the Yalu and its tributaries, and that anyone not authorized by the company who cuts timber in these places, will be prosecuted and have his timber confiscated. The Timber Company is now prepared to sell its timber to the public at Dalny, Port Arthur, Yingkow, and in all other places where it has agencies. I suppose Japanese and American timber merchants will suffer to some extent in consequence.

A QUESTION OF CRICKET.

Writing under date 14th (27th) October, the Shanghai correspondent of the *Novi Krai* asks his countrymen and the non-British residents of the settlement in general for humouring the English so much by a simulated enthusiasm of cricket. Here is what he says:

"At the beginning of this year, I informed you that with the departure of the foreign troops from Shanghai, the non-English part of the community lost much of the sense of support they derived from the presence of these troops, a presence which encouraged them to live in their own way and relieved them from the necessity of a slavish submission to the fads of the English society in which their lot was cast. The non-English portion of our society tended more to unite, inasmuch as it is more numerous than the English portion; but this union, an union exhibiting what I may call a manifestation of the national life of each group that composed it, was hardly born when it began to disappear, and this notwithstanding the fact that none of its component parts are very sympathetic towards the English."

SERVILE IMITATION.

"To what an extent we all servilely imitate the English may easily be seen from the following facts. Yesterday afternoon and all day to-day, all the banks and offices were shut just because the English people of Shanghai took it into their heads at that time to amuse them-

selves by looking at the game of cricket played by the Shanghai exponents of this game with Hongkong players come here expressly for this match. The strangest part of the whole proceedings was that most of the people present of the non-English part of the community had not got any idea at all of how the game was played, and did not even care to look at it. They simply celebrated the occasion in order to please the English. Now I do not object to the English having their relaxation in this way, but it may be asked why, because the English community takes it into its head to go to see a cricket match, all business must be stopped? In this connection I may say that according to the Custom House reports, only 0.6 of the trade belongs to the English, the rest of the Shanghai trade being in the hands of Russians and of merchants belonging to other nations. As to the number of banks, there are only two English banks here, while on the other hand there are Belgian, Dutch, German, Russo-Chinese, French, and Japanese banks, all of which, with the exception of the Russo-Chinese, employ only men belonging to their own nationality, if we do not count the Portuguese from Macao who, as a general rule, occupy all the inferior offices in the local banks. The Portuguese do not, however, take any absorbing interest in the game of cricket; hence my amazement that all the non-English establishments I have just mentioned close their doors in honour of such an event.

THE ENGLISH YOKE.

"The English, seeing that all endeavour to imitate them, become day after day more and more insupportable in their dealings with other nations. The strangest part of this strange state of things is that while one finds everywhere hatred of the English social yoke, or rather, I should say, the Anglo-Jewish yoke, there are to be found foreigners who obligingly chime in with the English instead of making a determined effort to shake off that yoke."

A CRICKET CLUB IN PORT ARTHUR.

Now, I do not think that this represents the sentiments of the average foreigner (meaning by that, non-Britisher) or even of the average Russian in Shanghai. It certainly does not represent the views of the Russians with whom I am brought in contact here. I find that these Russians desire nothing so much as a *rapprochement*, social and otherwise, between the two great white races that, between them, practically rule Asia. I also find that there is a cricket club here to which some Russians belong. At the same time it must be confessed that the Russian gentleman whose letter I have just translated is right in insisting on the fact that a slavish pretence of liking games that you do not like in order to please people of another nationality is strongly to be reprehended; and I think we would be the last people in the world ourselves to welcome foreign spectators who are attracted to our cricket matches by these motives. But if there is no servility in the intention, but only that amiable desire to please which makes the gentleman, no matter of what nationality he may be, often hide his real feelings and pretend to interest where no interest exists, I think that foreigners are only performing an act of courtesy when they attend cricket matches in which they take no interest in the play and do not understand it. It think that the foreign banks in Shanghai were animated by these feelings on the occasion in question, and not by a servile desire to propitiate John Bull; and I think that the English community would be glad, from similar motives, to oblige the Russian or any other community. Of course there is the broad question of whether we are not paying too much attention to cricket. Some of our most earnest and well-intentioned critics at home are quite as fierce in their denunciation of "the flannel'd fools at the wicket" as the Shanghai correspondent of the Port Arthur paper could desire. There is also the question of whether the banks do not give themselves too many holidays as it is; and I may here remark that the bank in Port Arthur seems to have a fair number of holidays as it is, and if it also began to close on the occasion of cricket matches it would only be open on rare occasions. These, however, are questions apart.

CHINESE PRESENTATION TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

AN EMBROIDERED CANOPY.

The *Kaifong*—street committee—of Second and Third Streets (Western District of Hongkong City) at noon on Saturday presented Sir Henry Blake with an embroidered canopy of unique Chinese design and workmanship. It was intended as a parting mark of esteem by that section of the native community with whom Sir Henry co-operated in carrying out certain experiments for the successful treatment of Chinese plague patients.

The experiments—the results of which we published some time ago—were conducted in two blocks located at one of the worst plague districts in the Colony, viz: No. 9 District.

Shortly before noon the bang of Chinese cymbals and other similar more or less musical instruments were heard in the vicinity of, and gradually approaching, Government House. Sharp at the hour a procession entered at the main porchway.

It was typically Chinese. First came two boys carrying paper lanterns upon which were inscribed characters for "With greatest respect we appreciate your benevolence"; next came two pairs of boys carrying flags; then two pairs of glass lamps; two boys with peculiar head-dress three banners in succession; a "band"; three ornamental trays in succession; a "band"; another banner; the canopy; and finally representatives of the *kaifong* in chairs.

When the *kaifong* representatives had alighted, the company repaired to the ball-room where Sir Henry and Lady Blake received them. The canopy was placed in the centre of the room.

Those present were Sir John Keane, A.D.C., Hon. W. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Pearce, Col. Webb, R.A.M.C., Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, Inspector Gidley, Messrs. Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, Liu Yi, Lau Chiu, Cheng Tai, Mak Hi, Tsang Sang, Mak Chak, Kwok Nam, Cheong Chi, Chau Chun, Tam Chun, Man Ling, Fung Ken, Yuan Shan, Wan Foon, Meng Yat, Chan Ki, Mak Sui, Chak Cheung, Man Chai, Fung Ken and Wong Wai, and the members of the *kaifong*.

Mr. Liu Yi, on behalf of the *kaifong*, read the following address:—Your Excellency—The members of the Committee representing the *kaifong* of Second and Third Streets are met here to-day to crave your Excellency's pleasure to accept a memento of the work which your Excellency, at great personal inconvenience, conducted in the interest and for the protection of the lives of the inhabitants of No. 9 District in this Colony. At the commencement of the annual visitation of plague this year, your Excellency inaugurated the experiments in the treatment of Chinese patients. Those experiments resulted in immense benefit to the people in that locality. The sympathy for the suffering of the poorer citizens of this Colony, so generously manifested by your Excellency, deeply touched them, and moved us, as the representatives of the district which came under your special and benign care, to an expression of our gratitude to you. It was the unprompted desire of every one of us that a souvenir should be subscribed for and presented to your Excellency now that you are so shortly to leave Hongkong at the conclusion of your period of administration here.

This souvenir takes the form of a canopy of no intrinsic value, but testifies none the less to the sincere appreciation and thankfulness of those who feel, so sensibly, your Excellency's solicitation for the assuagement of their troubles when beset by the calamitous ills such as befall us with each direful visitation of the dreaded scourge. We beg you, Sir, to accept the memento with our reiterated thanks. With this expression we couple the prayer that both you and Lady Blake may have long years before you to enjoy to the full the blessings of health and prosperity and the reward of His Majesty for the unqualified success of your administration in Hongkong. Like the Chinese in this Colony, the natives in the new sphere of your sympathetic government will not take long to realise what a loss we suffer by the inestimable gain they attain in your elevation to a higher post in the service of the King in Ceylon.

His Excellency replied:—Mr. Liu Yi and members of the Committee of the *kaifong* of Second and Third Streets. I have received

from time to time addresses and presentations, but never one that I have received with greater pleasure than this beautiful umbrella which will be a memento of the work that you and I undertook and carried out during last summer—work, the effect of which may be more far-reaching than is considered probable at present; for it has shown that it is possible to secure the co-operation of the people in public work as in private business, and such co-operation smooths away difficulties and carries out with pleasant ease precautions that, under other circumstances, are only irritating. I have already spoken to you and thanked you for your assistance, and I take this opportunity of saying how much the district is indebted to the good work done by Dr. Yeung Chuk Hing, of the Tung Wa Hospital, who visited the experimental block twice, and some times three times, each day and gave medical attendance, where necessary, without fee or reward. I am glad to hear that your influence has spread to the neighbouring districts, and that at present High Street and other parts of No. 9 District are working in co-operation with the Sanitary Board. Dr. Pearce informs me that the cleansing operations in No. 9 District are proceeding with three times the rapidity that they are in any other district in the city. This is very satisfactory, and I hope that the system which you have inaugurated will ultimately extend or, in a short time extend, to the whole city, and that I shall hear, when far away from Hongkong, that the Sanitary Board has ceased to be looked upon by the people with fear and trembling, and that the medical officers of health are received, as you receive them, as friends, and that the duties of the sanitary inspectors will be rendered light by the personal supervision of the *kaifong*s of the district. When that time comes, I hope and I think that the health of the city will be greatly improved, and you will be proud that you were the first to assist in the inauguration of a system, the result of which may be the cleansing of the city from this terrible plague with which we have been scourged for the past ten years. I thank you most heartily for this beautiful presentation, and I shall ever remember that you, who have presented it to me, have shown me how easy it is to induce the Chinese people to assist in the operations that are undertaken for their benefit when these operations are explained to them in the beginning. I hope you will convey to the inhabitants of the experimental block, with which I was so closely connected, my high appreciation of the manner in which they met me on that occasion, and the manner in which they carried out the instructions given them by me. I earnestly pray for the health and happiness of you and them, and your freedom from the dangers that, in the future, may possibly threaten this city.

The company then proceeded into the dining room, where various toasts were drunk.

The canopy is a beautifully embroidered piece of Chinese workmanship. The background is crimson silk, and a variety of emblems such as mythical dragons, phoenix, and women on horseback are worked upon it in gold and coloured thread. Chinese characters, meaning "In your goodness of heart you protect the people" are prominent on it; and on two long ribbons are inscribed the names of the committee in red letters. On a silver plate sewn on to the ribbon is the following inscription:—"To His Excellency, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong, Commander-in-Chief and Vice-Admiral of Same. Chan Ki, Kwok Nam, Chak Cheung, Fung Kun, Mak Sui, Shai Ki, Mak Hi, Tsang Sang, Mak Chak, Cheong Chi, Lau Chiu, Wan Fun, Lin Yi, Heng Yat, Wang Wai, Chan Chun, Tam Chun, Fung Ken, Man Ling, Man Chai, Cheng Tai, Second and Third Street Kaifong."

Mr. Kato, Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, reports that about twenty or thirty Russian sailors of the *Bobre* quarrelled with a number of Japanese subjects on the wharf on the afternoon of the 1st inst. A fight occurred in which three Japanese were badly injured. Seven others also sustained slighter injuries. Some of the crew of the Japanese cruiser *Chiyoda* were mixed up in the affray. Several Russians were also injured in the conflict.

CHINESE PRESENTATION TO LADY BLAKE.

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HONGKONG.

A presentation of a number of Chinese curios was made to Lady Blake at Government House on Thursday. They comprised three bronzes (one incense-burner and two vases) 300 years old, two blue and white china Kang Hi dynasty vases, one vase of the Yung Ching dynasty, one pair of Kin Leung dynasty vases, two pieces of old embroidery (one a screen and the other a cover), and two carved ivories, one of which is of 18 stages (one ball inside another). In addition to H.E. and Lady Blake there were present Sir John Keane, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Acting Clerk of Councils, Mr. Rumjahn, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Wei Yuk, Messrs. Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, Ho Fook, Chan Sin Ke, Wei Os, Un Lai Chuen, Tang Lau Kop, Taig Lau Chuen, Wong Kum Fuk, Chow Hing Ki, Yung Pin Shan, Lai Shan Hui, U Hai Chow, Li Pak, Chow Foon Ng, and Chan Chok Ping.

The deputation was received in the ball room, when first of all Master Wei Yuk presented Lady Blake with a bouquet.

Then Dr. Ho Kai then stepped forward and said:—On behalf of your many Chinese friends and admirers in this Colony I have the distinguished honour to-day to present a few articles for your gracious acceptance. The articles in themselves are not of very great value, but they are presented to you by your Chinese friends more as a token of their esteem and of their regard and affection, your Ladyship. On the eve of your departure for Ceylon your Chinese friends have felt that very shortly they are about to lose the society not only of a great and charming lady, but a sympathetic and kind personal friend. (Applause). They have received many acts of kindness from your hands. They have received your profuse hospitality at Government House, and you have always taken a very lively and kindly interest in them and their affairs both individually, and as a community and a nation. They feel that in you they have a sympathiser, a friend, and a guide, and the Chinese and their families have also received much kindness at your hands. The articles are the products of the art, industry, and manufactures of China. They will serve to remind you when you are far away from us in Ceylon, or at your home in Ireland, that you have many affectionate friends among the Chinese in the far eastern Colony of Hongkong, and they further will remind you of your five years' residence in this Colony amongst us. (Applause). I need not recount the many kindnesses that you have shown your Chinese friends here, but suffice it to say your kindness, courtesy, and your consideration, and the sympathetic interest you have taken in them, in their families, and in their social affairs, have so endeared you to them that they shall ever cherish the memory of you all through their life (applause). They hope that when you are away from them that you may be reminded of them, and they also desire to wish you and your noble husband, H.E. the Governor, a very prosperous and happy future life. Your Chinese friends, therefore, beg that your Ladyship will accept these articles. (Applause).

Lady BLAKE in response said—There is an old saying that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," but I am sorry to say that I cannot agree with that saying this morning, for much as I feel I have no words to express my gratitude for your kindness and my admiration for your gifts. To me it is not only a pleasure but a privilege to have made so many friends amongst the Chinese, and as I believe that when one is far away one can still be with those one cares for in spirit, my spirit will always be with you. In years to come I look forward to see many of you in our home in Ireland. I thank you with all my heart for these presents, and I can assure you that none of them were needed to assure me of your regard and sincerity (applause).

Dr. Ho Kai then addressed Sir Henry Blake as follows:—May I now take this opportunity, your Excellency, to address to you a few words? At the request of the leading men of the Chinese community, I have to ask your kind approval of the foundation of two scholarships to be named after your Excellency: the one is

to be allotted to the Queen's College and the other to the College for Medicine for the Chinese. Both will be awarded annually. The Chinese have further requested me to request your approval of the painting of a portrait of your Excellency and the placing it in the hall of the new wing of the Tung Wa Hospital. By these acts the Chinese community desire to perpetuate your Excellency's memory, and to hand it down to posterity and future generations. I can assure your Excellency that with the present Chinese community in this Colony they need no such measures to keep your name green in their memory (applause). They have thoroughly appreciated your Excellency's kindness to them, and they can never forget your Excellency's most wise, just, benevolent, and sympathetic administration during the five years that have just gone by. This is rather an idea of theirs to hand down to posterity something associated with your Excellency's name, that future generations may recall to mind that for the period of five years your Excellency had administered the Government of Hongkong so successfully, not only to the benefit of the Chinese, but also of all sections of the community alike (applause). The present generation of Chinese fully realise what your Excellency has been to them, and they cannot forget for a moment, even if they would, your Excellency's high qualities as an administrator and a friend. They have to-day, therefore, met to express their feelings in the matter, not because they have not already done so, but because on the eve of your departure for Ceylon they wish to obtain your approval to what they consider to be a privilege for them. (applause). Your Excellency's acts of administration I need not here refer to, because they have been fully set forth in two documents, one of which has been brought to the notice of even His Most Gracious Majesty the King and received his approval and expressions of satisfaction. The feeling of the Chinese towards your Excellency found expression in the address which I had the honour to present to you last year, just previous to your departure for England on a holiday, and I can assure your Excellency to day that those sentiments have never been diminished but if anything have become much more intensified, and to-day I am authorised to say that there is scarcely one among the Chinese community in Hongkong who does not know and does not esteem your Excellency for the many wise and sympathetic actions that have so characterised the five years of your administration of the affairs of this Colony. I have formally to ask for your Excellency's sanction for the two proposals which I have just mentioned, and I hope your Excellency will agree to them, and I can also assure your Excellency that they will receive that approval with the greatest pleasure, and they also wish to assure your Excellency of their continued and lasting esteem and affection. (Applause).

His EXCELLENCE said:—There is no request that you could have addressed to me that has so gratified me or that I approve of with greater pleasure, than that which you have made to me to-day, and that is, to have the honour of having my name associated with two scholarships in this Colony. Your reference to my administration is exceedingly gratifying, and I can now say that I have sometimes felt surprise at the depth of feeling on the part of the Chinese community, because so far as my acts are concerned I have done nothing more than any other representative of the King in the same position here, and that is to show every consideration and justice to every section of the community that helps to push the Colony forward into the position in which it stands at present (applause). I have governed portions of almost every race of the world. My experience goes from North America to the West Indian Islands and now to the Far East. Every man speaks of his own experience, and I can say that a more law-abiding or more easily-governed people than the Chinese in Hongkong I have never met with. I have found them reasonable in every respect, and no man could desire more. You have all the qualities that make for success, and you are making it, and there is the additional satisfaction in Hongkong that, notwithstanding that there are so many representatives of

many different nationalities, they have coalesced, and I find no difficulties among them. They are all putting their shoulder to the wheel and moving forward with a common object of forwarding the interests of the Colony. It is a great honour and great gratification to me that the Chinese portion of the community have determined to establish these two scholarships. I shall always look back upon the fact that you have done so with very great pride, and with equal pride shall I remember that you will have my portrait in that splendid monument of Chinese charity, the new wing of the Tung Wa Hospital. I thank you for your thoughts and the way in which you think it advisable to mark your approval of my administration. I accept your most generous offer with great gratification and pleasure, and I thank you warmly for the feelings you have expressed toward me, and which I may tell you are heartily and warmly reciprocated (Applause).

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held yesterday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President), Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Runjahn, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Col. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Dr. W. W. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Capt. F. W. Lyons, Acting Capt.-Superintendent of Public, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

The PRESIDENT moved that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed. He referred to the public and confidential meetings.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and it was carried.

The PRESIDENT said that before proceeding he would like to say the general cleaning was proceeding satisfactorily. The work was progressing at the rate of about 50 floors a day. The new bath-house for Chinese at Wanchai was only opened three weeks ago: on the first day only 12 visited it: yesterday 99 were there.

As some of the members of the Board were delayed, the President thought that the agenda had better be first proceeded with.

OPEN SPACE.

The following minutes were made with respect to an application for exemption from the provision of full yard spaces for Nos. 34, 36 and 38 Temple Street, Yaumati:—

Dr. McFarlane minuted:—Secretary. Please draw attention to the fact that the attached plan of the houses does not show the 8 ft. wall which exists enclosing the yards. I think exemption might be granted provided that the two-storied houses at the rear are not raised. The houses are well lighted and ventilated.

The PRESIDENT moved that provided the two houses to the rear are not raised the application be granted.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded and, it was carried.

Relative to an application for exemption from the provision of open spaces in respect certain houses on Kowloon Island Lots 1089 1091, 1092 and 1093:—

Dr. McFarlane minuted:—With reference to Lot 1092, I do not see any reason for treating it differently from Lots 1090 or 1088, which have been accepted under conditions that the corner houses be entirely excepted and the rest provide lobbies ascending to the plan submitted for Lots 1088 and 1090. Lots 1089, 1091 and 1093 have only a 15-foot lane in the rear, and I see no reason why they should not therefore provide open backyards of half the kitchen width. the corner houses being exempted as before.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN asked if the lane, 14 or 15 ft. wide, was not enough.

DR. PEARSE said that it was about the average, but he thought it better to make the lane bigger.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted conditionally.

COLONEL WEBB seconded and, it was carried.

An application for exemption from the provision of full yard spaces for Nos. 8 to 13 Chater street. was submitted.

Dr. Barnett minuted:—The arrangement shown in the attached plan seems to me about the best method of providing open space and kitchen area.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded, and it was carried. An application for exemption from the provision of a yard for No. 18 Chater Street. came forward for consideration.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted conditionally.

Mr LAU CHU PAK seconded, and it was granted.

SCAVENGING.

The following application, dated 10th inst., has been received:—Sir, re house 19, Queen Street, Inland lot 1,169, I have the honour to forward tracing showing proposed design of new building to be erected on above lot, and to request that exemption be granted (under Sec. 180, Ord. of 1903) from providing scavenging lane to said building. I beg to state the following points in support of my application:—(1) The lane cannot be made accessible for scavenging coolies, and will only form a repository for rubbish. (2) The house 21 is new, and many years must elapse before reconstruction. (3) Compensation would be required for lane, and the price of land is very high in this neighbourhood. (4) Queen Street is only a short street, but is of fair width, and opens onto two wide streets. (5) Houses are built low in the neighbourhood, and from block plan it will be seen there are many open spaced. (6) The shop of No. 19 is only 33ft. 4ins. deep, and the frontage is greater than usual. (7) The house will be well let and ventilated and have the open space required by Ord. of 1903. (Sd.) Quin Mow Yueng (John Lemm, architect).

The PRESIDENT said that the Vice-President opined that as it was impossible to make a scavenging lane in the neighbourhood the only thing to do was to grant the application.

Mr. RUMJAHN moved that the Government be recommended to make a lane joining Heung Lane with Bonham Strand.

No one seconded and the motion was lost.

The PRESIDENT moved that exemption be granted.

COLONEL WEBB seconded, and it was agreed.

THE DAIRY FARM.

An application for permission to use a portion of the depot of the Dairy Farm Company to house and store poultry came before the meeting.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted on the condition that the dairy farm and poultry be kept separate.

COLONEL WEBB seconded and it was agreed.

PAWNSHOPS.

The following correspondence, from Mr. J. A. Lyon, relative to the question of painting and polishing the shelves for storing pawned goods in pawnshops came before the meeting:—I beg to direct your attention to a question which has been asked here in connection with the dealing with pawnshops during the limewashing periods, as to "whether we wish the shelves of these shops (said shelves being used for storage of pawned goods) limewashed." This question has been put by Chau Chan Nau, of the Cheong On pawnshop, Nos. 12 and 14 Yu Wo Street Up till now I have insisted on the lime-washing, etc., of these premises in their entirety, but this man says it is a hardship. From the important, or otherwise, position these premises play in connection with the destination of infectious diseases, on which, no doubt, the M.O.H. will give a ruling, I would submit that these structures, which are usually constructed of wood, should be either limewashed in their entirety or oil painted. As for the fact that this man says that in the damp weather (opening time) the limewash destroys the clothes. This I would emphatically dispute, as there is no limestone here, nor anywhere near here, which, when burnt, will produce the same effect that a good limestone in a temperate climate will produce. Further, that this burning

process only takes place where the articles are treated with liquid limewash, and not after it has dried. I would suggest that all wooden structures used in pawnshops in their entirety be oil-painted, and oil-paint work be washed down during the lime-washing periods.

The M. O. H. minuted:—I think it would be well if the Board would direct that a letter be sent to each pawnbroker saying that in default of having the shelves painted or polished so as to allow of their being properly cleansed by washing, limewashing will be insisted on.

The President minuted:—These shelves undoubtedly get very dirty, covered with dust, etc. The recommendation of the M.O.H. seems to be a practical one.

The Vice-President minuted:—The best remedy will be to have the shelves painted as suggested.

The PRESIDENT moved that the M. O. H.'s suggestion be adopted.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded and it was carried.

DUST-BINS.

The following correspondence, signed J. P. Conolly (31st ult.), was laid on the table:—Sir, Dr. Barnett instructed me at last meeting to write to you to ask if it was the Board's intention to enforce section 7 of the scavenging and conservancy bye-laws, which relate to occupiers providing themselves with dust-bins. My reason for asking for instructions is that the large majority of occupants of houses in Nos. 9 and 10 districts are very poor people and the price of the approved dust-bin being quite beyond their means.

The President minuted:—How do they house the rubbish at present?

Mr. Rumjahn minuted:—As long as household rubbish is allowed to remain in the premises overnight, no good can be attained whether a dust-bin or any other utensil is used.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—I object to the enforcement of section 7. It is most unreasonable to compel the poor to spend four or five dollars for an approved dust-bin. Baskets are good enough for the purpose.

The PRESIDENT moved that the matter be left to the sanitary inspector's discretion.

COLONEL WEBB asked why not require the owner of the property and not the occupier to provide dust-bins.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN explained that if this were done the occupier would have to pay for it just the same.

The matter was left for the sub-committee.

NO. 166, QUEEN'S ROAD.

Further correspondence, dated 27th ult., relative to using the basement of No. 166, Queen's Road Central for the preparation of food, has been received by the Sanitary Board:—Sir, in reply to your letter dated the 23rd inst. I beg to inform you that I am not able to make an area at the side of No. 166 Queen's Road Central, and that I have ceased using the ground floor for the preparation of food. I have also removed the oven from the main room of No. 117, Wellington Street, first floor, and request that you grant me a bakehouse licence (Sd.) Lam Yip Sang.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted.

Capt. LYONS seconded and it was agreed.

FOOD STORAGE.

The following was an application for permission to use the basement of No. 63, First Street for the preparation and storage of food:—I have the honour to state that I am the owner and occupier of No. 63, First Street, used together with the 1st and 2nd floors of 65, First Street, by me as a Chinese pawnbroking establishment for 19 years, under the name of Hu Cheong. The ground, first and second floors of No. 63, and first and second floors of No. 65, are used for storage of goods in pawn, and by eight to ten employees of the establishment. There are not any kitchen arrangements on any of these floors, as the risk from fire to the valuable goods stored would be too great. I therefore beg to request that the permit of the Sanitary Board be given, under Sec. 45, Ord. 1 of 1903, to use the basement under 63

for purposes of preparation and storage of food. The plans herewith show the said basement, which is well lit and ventilated by large windows to external air of adequate area; the walls abutting against earth will be rendered with cement up to full height, and the other walls up to 4 ft. high. The basement will be free from damp and rat-proof (Sd) Chan Cheung Fong (John Lemm, architect).

The PRESIDENT moved that the occupiers be informed as to the M. O. H.'s opinion.

MR. FUNG WA CHUN seconded and it was agreed to.

SOAP-BOILING.

An application for a soap-boiling licence in respect of No. 13, Queen's Road East was submitted.

DR. BARNETT said that he had been to inspect the building. He did not know whether the application for a licence was to be considered on the footing of a new licence or as a renewal. Though not possessed of a license the concern had been in existence some considerable time.

DR. PEARSE said it must be considered as a new license.

The PRESIDENT moved that the license be granted conditionally.

MR. RUMJAHN seconded and it was carried.

LICENSES.

Nineteen applications for various food licenses, or renewal of such licenses, were considered. Some were granted and others refused.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The water analysis was laid on the table. Mr. Frank Browne is of opinion from analysis that water from wells situated at Un Chow Village and Un Lun garden is so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes and likely to prove injurious to health.

THE RAT RETURN.

The return for the fortnight ended 16th November was laid on the table. 2,313 per cent of the rats caught were found to be infected.

KENNEDY TOWN CATTLE-SHED.

The new cattle shed at Kennedy Town is practically completed. In consequence of the additional sheds sanctioned since contract No. 11 of 1903 was let, the compound surrounding the shed has not been finished, but this will not interfere with the use of the shed.

NO. 218 HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

MR. RUMJAHN, pursuant to notice, moved: (1) That the Medical Officer of Health be requested to furnish the Board with the following particulars in respect to the kitchen, the ground surface, and the inlet to the drain of the ground-floor of No. 218, Hollywood Road for which a bake-house licence was issued on the 4th instant:—(a) State whether the kitchen is a basement: and if it is, whether it is in compliance with the provisions of Section 45 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903. (b) State whether the ground surface complies with the provisions of Rule 2 of the bake-house bye-laws. (c) The inlet to the drain being in the back-yard state whether it is in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 of the bake-house bye-laws. The bake-houses licence had been granted after people had been sent to make a report on the premises. He visited the place and found it in a very unsatisfactory state with regard to the floor, and interior wall, the grating was only half the size it might be, and there was also an abominable smell in the yard. The grating was not rat-proof.

THE PRESIDENT said that the M. O. H. had visited the premises and would tell what he had found.

The M.O.H. said that he had visited the premises two days before Mr. Rumjahn, and he had issued instructions regarding his action when the new licenses came up in January. The kitchen was a basement and the gratings were not rat-proof. The ground had been apparently repaired, there being a fair surface. When he visited the premises he found the oven being put into the front room. The front of the premises was being used; the back would not be used for baking.

The PRESIDENT said that in these cases the

regulations were not so stringently enforced as in large houses.

MR. RUMJAHN said that no permission had been given by the Board, and the basement could not be utilised for the preparation of food.

The M.O.H. said that food was not being prepared there since the removal of the oven.

MR. RUMJAHN begged to be allowed to withdraw his second question.

The public proceedings then terminated.

NOTFS FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

Just nine years ago seeds of *Tithonia diversifolia* were received from the Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, from which several plants were raised. These flowered in the following November and afterwards perfected seed. The plants are perennial, but if sown b. raised annually they flower in less than a year from the lime of sowing. There are several specimens in the shrubberies in both the old and the new gardens, and specimens may now be met with in various other gardens in the colony. The species grows to a height of 8 or 9ft., and as many feet through. The flower-heads, which are yellow and 4 or 5 inches across, are produced at the ends of the branches, and a bush in full flower makes a very pleasing sight. The species, like most other members of the genus, is a native of Mexico and belongs to that very large family of plants, Composite.

There are several very decorative grasses to be met with in Hongkong, and at the present time two or three are in flower, and one of these, *Saccharum arundinaceum*, may be seen at the bottom of the walk leading up to the No. 1 house. This plant is also a native of the plains and low hills of India, and has been found in Ceylon. It grows to a height of 10 or 20ft. with erect, ovoid, generally cream-coloured panicles, 1 to 2ft. long. It is a near relative of the sugar-cane and bears the same generic name.

No rainfall, excepting .02 of an inch on the 3rd, has been recorded this month.

THE JUBILEE FUND ROAD ACCOUNT.

We have received from the Hon. W. Chat-
ham, Hon. Sec. the following statement of
account:—

RECEIPTS.	\$ c.
Transfer from general account (including interest to 28-2. 9)	97,849.92
Interest, from 28-2.99 to closing of account	16,898.10
Total	\$114,748.02

EXPENDITURE.	
Contract for construction of road and connecting path to road from Peak	106,146.00
Less amount paid by Government	524.25
	105,621.75
Engineers' commission	5,36.90
Overseer's wages	1,759.00
Miscellaneous, including surveying expenses (P.W.D.) cutting preliminary tracks and part cost of altering telegraph cables	2,066.37
	114,748.02

Hongkong, 28th October, 1903.

Saturday, the 14th instant, was the birthday of the Mother Superior of the French Convent, and, in accordance with ancient custom, the Convent was *en fete* during the day. The pupils were given a holiday, and some of the elder ones occupied part of the morning with decorating the class-rooms with flowers and foliage. In the afternoon the Mother Superior was given a surprise by having the girls wait upon her with dainty offerings of flowers, with congratulatory greeting for "many happy returns." Afterwards light refreshments were handed round, and the evening ended in music, songs and games, in which the sisters of the convent assisted, and a very happy day for the pupils ended with the singing of a ode to the Mother Superior, and finally "God Save the King."

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 11th November.

RUMOURED BIG BATTLE.

There are rumours of a great battle in the Waichow district, but these must be taken as having grown in the telling. However, a brigand chief seems to have been captured, though whether he is a person of any importance may be doubted. The story, which I give below, bears signs of touching up in the usual picturesque Chinese manner.

BRUSH WITH ROBBERS.

The villagers of Cheung Tow Tong, not far from Waichow itself, had suffered considerably from the robbers in the neighbourhood under one Ma Wong Hui. With the arrival of the energetic General Ng in Waichow the people seem, however, to be plucking up courage to resist their oppressors, and so it was in this case. The Cheung Tow people attacked Ma and his men, and held him at bay until the general arrived with his usual thousand men. The robbers were then put to flight, but not until they had killed one hundred villagers and an officer and several tens of men among the troops. Against this loss the government people have only to boast of two captures, though that of the chief, who is now in Canton, may cause the break-up of the band. A good deal of stolen property was recovered, but it may be doubted whether the original owners will see the colour of their coin again. It would probably be highly advisable to put in a claim at the local lost property office.

IN THE CITY.

From Canton there are only the barest items of news. The ex-Namhoi is not yet at liberty as the Provincial Treasurer insists on the fullest investigation into his case—the fine of \$300,000 was not large enough, apparently. On the obituary list I notice the name of Wong, late magistrate of Kwaiping. It is to be noted that it was from his charge that Chun King Wa, the man of blood, escaped.

Canton, 17th November.

AN EARTHQUAKE SHOCK.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt by several residents in Shameen this morning at 8.45; the tremor lasted for about eleven seconds. It is many years since an earthquake has been recorded in Canton.

FIRE.

There have been several fires in Canton during the past week. On the 12th two flower boats were burnt near the Ying Chü Kai, in Kuk Fau, and on the evening of the 15th two or three houses were gutted near Wong Sha while last night a shop was burnt down in Honam. The Chinese Fire Brigade does very useful work on these occasions. The citizens seem to recognise the danger of fires spreading throughout a whole quarter, and do their best to put them down. Visitors may have noticed the great number of hydrants in the city, which the authorities keep in good order. These were introduced some ten years ago, and their usefulness has often been proved. The wonder is, not that there are many small fires, but that the city is not burnt to the water's edge when a high wind is blowing.

A very destructive fire is reported from San Tong in Shek Lung district. This outbreak originated in a matshed, in which some gay companions of the lower class had congregated. They were indulging in a game of cards, and in the small hours of the morning betook themselves to their supper, which consisted of a cat which had fallen into their hands. It is apparently necessary to singe the hair off this delicate dish before eating it, and some of the sparks from the hair ignited the matshed, causing a conflagration in which 437 houses—practically the whole village—were burnt. It may be assumed that the gay party of players has formed the robber bands which haunt this neighbourhood; their lives would not be worth much if they fell into the

hands of the villagers. A vacancy was caused in the ranks of the brigands by the execution of three of their chiefs at Canton last week, but such vacancies are easily filled. The universal practice of gambling undoubtedly is a great evil, as a ruined gambler is always welcome in a robber band, or at the worst can start in the business alone.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 16th November.

THE NEW GOVERNOR.

The new Provincial Governor Cheung has arrived at Canton, taking up the governorship on the 12th ult.; ex-Governor Li Hing Yui left on the 14th for Foochow to take up the post of Acting Viceroy there.

SUICIDE OF AN OFFICIAL.

Chuen Chew, late sub-prefect of Kwangsi, and principal director of the lekin bureau, has been arrested and brought back to Canton, tried, and punished. He was tried before the prefect Shum, of Kwongchow, for murder and embezzlement of the lekin taxes to the amount of thirty thousand taels. After the trial he was handed over to the new Namhoi magistrate to be detained in prison. There by means of opium he committed suicide. It is said that in consequence the new Namhoi magistrate will have some difficulty too. Probably he will be sent away and another put in his place.

FALSE NOTES.

There are a lot of false \$10 notes of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank found in Canton. Captain Yeung of Shameen discovered a few of them and has arrested three men. The notes were selling for \$3.60, and were very ingeniously made.

FIRE INSURANCE.

In consequence of the frequent occurrence of fire in Canton the shopkeepers have formed a company, one branch in each street, which they call "the mutual fire insurance company." Each shop in every street pays so much to the fund. In case of fire in any one of the shops in the street the people of the rest of the shops have to help to put out the fire, and the company has to pay the damage out of its funds.

SQUEEZING.

A weiyuin has been sent round to all the gambling houses by order of the authorities to find out by their books what amount of squeezes has been paid to officials daily and what are their names. The Wai Sing lottery company besides paying for the monopoly annually has been ordered to pay ten per cent. on its takings.

CHINESE METHODS.

Four men working on the railway at Ying Tak have been injured by explosives and were taken into a school kept by Lai She to be attended to. The latter for fear of trouble had them removed to a public convenience to be medically and comfortably attended to!

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A VILLAIN'S END.

Ma Wong-hoi, a notorious robber and a follower of Li Ka-cheuk, was captured on the 6th instant. Ma was also a robber before he was under the protection of Li Ka-cheuk, who promised his protection and afterwards made him a military officer. He was Li's right-hand man, and the two put their heads together to commit crimes of every description, and make their squeezes. After Li Ka-cheuk had been locked up in the Punyu magistrate's prison, Ma gathered a large number of followers and took possession of a village named Shek-po in Tuogkun district. They were also joined by the notorious robber-leaders, Tai Mui-heung and Tsu-Tai-Wong-Chi, each of whom had about one thousand followers. They committed robberies in broad daylight, seized the rich people for ransom, and forced the junks and big ships to pay blackmail monthly or quarterly. Twenty per cent. of their spoils were used to buy weapons and firearms. They had about two thousand new rifles of the latest pattern, and built two stone forts at the entrance commanding the village. They intended to march through the districts of Punyu, Tuogkun, and Namhoi, to Canton and to seize the city for

the purpose of saving Li Ka-cheuk. After Tai Mui-heung was captured and decapitated some two weeks ago, the followers of Ma became frightened, and a good number of them left him for places of safety. The number was then reduced to only about six hundred. Ma still believed that he was quite strong enough to cope with the troops, for he quite understood that the number of soldiers sent to effect the arrest of robbers was usually about two or three hundred. Unexpectedly, on the morning of the 6th inst., Viceroy Shum sent the commander-in-chief of the land forces and Admiral Ho, together with some two thousand soldiers and some guns, to capture him. Lieutenant Shi and a military officer, named Liu, were sent there first with six hundred soldiers. When Lieutenant Shi arrived with the troops, a battle commenced at once and many were killed and wounded on both sides. At last Admiral Ho and the commander-in-chief arrived on the spot, when the robber village was completely hemmed in. The battle lasted about two hours, but shell after shell was poured into the village, so that the robbers could stand it no longer. A good number were captured and beheaded at once. Ma tried to make his escape with about sixty followers, and they all put on the uniforms of soldiers, which Ma had when he was military officer under Li Ka-cheuk. No one recognised him at first, but when he passed a certain place some villagers who knew him shouted out his name. He and his band at once drew out revolvers and fatally shot some villagers, after which they threw a good number of banknotes on the ground to buy off the pursuers. The soldiers, however, dared not stop to pick up the notes, and Ma was captured alive, while all his followers were either taken prisoners or killed. During the encounter about one hundred and fifty robbers either committed suicide by drowning themselves in the ponds or wells, or were killed, and about one hundred were taken alive. A good number of unfortunate villagers, who were unable to afford the passage to places of safety, when Ma took possession of the village, were also killed. On the official side a military officer named Liu and seven soldiers were killed, and about thirty wounded. Ma Wong-hoi, Tsu-Tai-Wong-chi and Lam Kan, the three leaders, have been sent to Canton for trial.

THE NAMHOI BROUGHT TO BOOK.

That notorious squeezer, Poi Kan-fook, late Namhoi magistrate, who was dismissed by the Viceroy, was brought before the Provincial Judge on the 2nd inst., charged with accepting heavy bribes from the creditors of the well-known pill-shop, Chau Li Tsai, the owners of which were forced by him to sell the shop in question to the creditors, who were anxious to take possession of the shop at any cost. Poi pleaded that the case was mistakenly tried by him. The Judge replied that as there was evidence against him of accepting a bribe of over one hundred thousand dollars, he was unable to do anything in his favour. Poi was at first perfectly composed, but when he heard the words of the Judge, tears were rolling down his cheeks from his eyes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

H.E. Chang Yun-chun, the new Governor of Canton, arrived on the 11th inst. and took over the seal on the 12th inst. H.E. Li Hing Yui, the old governor and viceroy-designate at Foochow, left for that port on the 14th inst. His Excellency has appointed the 20th or 22nd inst. as the day for taking over the Viceregal seal at Foochow.

Now that measures have been taken to remove Tibetan obstructiveness, says the *Straits Times*, it is interesting to note that about the middle of last month, Captain Rawlins and Lieutenant Hargreaves had returned to Kashmir from an expedition in Tibet. After crossing Lanak Pass the party went due east to continue Captain Deasy's survey. Many new lakes were discovered. At Thok Jalung the expedition was stopped by armed Tibetans who, though friendly, insisted on the return of the expedition. Lieut. Hargreaves lost many baggage ponies in a blizzard raging for eight days, but the party discovered some grain buried by Captain Deasy. The triangulation extended to longitude 85 degrees east.

FOOCHOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Foochow, 14th November.
FOOCHOW ARSENAL.

Mr. Ch. Doyère is still at Pagoda Anchorage, and there are rumours of more trouble, financial and otherwise, things being quite at a dead lock. It is now said that a representative of the firm of Messrs. Racine, Ackermann & Co., of Shanghai, which is supposed to be concerned in the contract for two ships made by M. Doyère in the name of the Foochow Arsenal, is coming to Pagoda Anchorage to go into the matter on the spot. Originally, and until quite recently, the Chinese authorities, as represented by Mr. Wei Han, hoped to be able to take up the whole contract, even at a loss to themselves. This, it seems, is now found impossible, and the whole contract as such will be repudiated. Work has already commenced on one of the ships, and the Arsenal may carry it to completion, but only as an undertaking to be regarded apart from any contract made by M. Doyère. Who will build ship No. 2, may perhaps be asked now.

SPORT.

Everyone is talking in the minor key of this year's griffins. Undoubtedly they are a poor lot. I understand that three ponies at least are being brought from Shanghai, bought there after the meeting. We have some good old ponies, and it will be they that will cause most interest.

VISITORS.

Last Sunday we were quite inundated by visitors passing through on s.s. Preussen. Most of them were on their way back to Hongkong from the Shanghai Races. We noticed Hon. Gershon Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, and Mr. Owen among others. Sir Chas. Dudgeon arrived by s.s. Haeskin and has been stopping a few days with Mr. Brady, British Consul, and is on his way further south.

RICE AND TEA.

The rice-crop here is rather above the average this year, and is being harvested in perfect weather. The market price is about \$1 per picul cheaper than the last crop. There has also been a smart little spurt in tea, and particularly in Oolongs. The Chinese teamen have done rather better than over the previous sales, where their loss was estimated at over one third of the total sales.

FLOWER-SHOW.

The annual flower-show was held in very fine weather on the Recreation Ground on Tuesday last. The chrysanthemums were particularly fine this year. Messrs. (i. Siemsen, E. J. Moss, and A. E. Reyley were the principal prize-winners, the first-named taking the big prize for a massed collection of chrysanthemums, the plum of the show.

HUMPHREYS' ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held on Wednesday at the Company's offices, Nos. 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Humphreys, A. G. Wood, P. C. Potts, R. C. Wilcox, H. W. Slade, Turner, G. T. Veitch, J. S. Van Buren, A. H. Mancell, J. T. Wheeley, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shin, Ho Kom Tong, Chau Chan Nam, and J. L. Cotter (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the business before us to-day is to confirm two special resolutions which were passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 31st of October last. I have nothing to add to what I said at that meeting, but before putting the resolution to you I shall be pleased to give any shareholder any further information he may desire.

No questions being asked the chairman continued:—I now move the first resolution, “that the capital of the Company be increased from \$1,000,000 (divided into 100,000 shares of \$10 each) to \$1,500,000 (divided into 150,000 shares of \$10 each) by the creation of 50,000 new shares of \$10 each to be offered, and if accepted to be allotted to the present shareholders of the Com-

pany at par in the ratio and proportion of one new share for every two old shares in the Company held by the respective shareholders thereof, the amount payable on each of such new shares respectively to be paid at such time or times and in such manner as the Company by its General Managers may hereafter determine.” I beg to move that this resolution be passed.

Mr. Ho Fook seconded and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN:—I now move the second resolution “that Article No. 82 of the Articles of Association of the Company be cancelled and the following article substituted therefor:—“The remuneration of the General Managers shall be a sum not exceeding \$8,000 per annum (which shall cover office rent and salaries of Secretary and other employees) and a commission of 5 per cent of the net profits of the Company for each year that such profits amount to 7 per cent. of the capital of the Company.”

Mr. Potts seconded, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN:—Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. That is all the business.

THE DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LTD.

The seventh annual meeting of shareholders of the above company was held on Thursday at the company's offices in Wyndham Street, those present being Dr. J. W. Noble, chairman, Messrs. F. Maitland and E. H. Hinds, Directors, A. Stevenson, Ling Wong, J. Walker, Manager, and S. A. Seta, Secretary. The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have now been in your possession for some days, and I will therefore, with your permission, take them as read. The directors are pleased at being able to present to you so satisfactory a statement of the past year's working. This satisfactory result is very largely due to the absence of any serious outbreak of disease during the period under review—a blessing which (if you had been as long associated with this Company as I have) you will not fail to be thankful for. Our herd is at present in excellent health and condition, and we are continually importing young stock of pure breed from England, America, and Australia, so as to improve and make it as perfect as possible, and thus make the milk, rich as it is, richer still. We can assure you that at the present moment we believe you possess a herd, the quality and quantity of which is unsurpassed by any dairy in the East. We trust our policy of substantially writing down the value of our cattle will commend itself to you, as it is an almost unvarying necessity when dealing with live stock. With the addition of the \$2,000 now proposed to be added to reserve, this fund will stand at \$20,000, and we hope, as time goes on, to continue adding to this fund.

The rapid growth of the population in Kowloon has induced our directors to open a depot there for the sale of milk and dairy products generally. For this purpose we have leased No. 57 Elgin Road, and we have no doubt this new departure will be greatly appreciated by all Kowloon residents, as well as increase our revenue. We are now in a position to offer sterilized milk in large or small quantities to all those requiring milk so treated. It is intended for the use of young children or invalids, and for those who prefer pure fresh milk on long voyages—this milk, as you all know, will keep sweet for an indefinite period, the sterilizing process destroys all germs the milk may contain. The price of foodstuffs, we are sorry to say, still continues high, and shows indications of advancing still further. The same might be said of wages. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions regarding the same to the best of my ability.

No one having any questions to put, The CHAIRMAN proposed that the accounts be passed.

Mr. J. WALKER seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the retiring directors, Mr. F. Maitland and Mr. E. H. Hinds be re-elected.

Mr. J. WALKER seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. STEVENSON proposed, and Mr. LING WONG seconded, that Mr. Hutton Potts be

re-elected auditor; carried unanimously. There being no other business to bring forward, with a vote of thanks to the chair the meeting terminated.

The following is the report:—

The Directors herewith present to the shareholders a statement of the company's accounts for the year ended 31st July, 1903.

The profit for the year (including \$2,692.68 brought forward from last account), after writing off \$7,117.64 for depreciation, providing for bad debts, directors' and auditors' fees, and other charges, amounts to \$17,529.90, from which it is proposed to pay a dividend of one dollar and twenty-five cents per share, absorbing \$12,500; to transfer to reserve \$2,000, and carry forward \$3,029.90.

As mentioned in the chairman's speech at last meeting, the balance of the late secretary's defalcations, amounting to \$5,296.15, has now been written off.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. Maitland and Hinds retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election at this meeting.

J. W. NOBLE,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
To capital, 10,000 shares at \$7.50 each.....	\$ 75,000.00	
Less not called up, \$1.50 per share	15,000.00	
	60,000.00	
To reserve fund	18,000.00	
To accounts payable	5,667.34	
To dividends uncollected	357.58	
To profit and loss	17,529.90	
	<u>\$101,554.82</u>	

	ASSETS.	\$ c.	\$ c.
By cattle	47,366.44		
Less written off	3,366.44		
	<u>44,000.00</u>		
By property Farm lots 18, 19, 25, and 38	12,000.00		
By buildings	13,648.64		
Less written off	1,648.64		
	<u>12,000.00</u>		
By town depot	9,000.00		
By furniture	717.85		
Less written off	217.85		
	<u>50,00</u>		
By machinery and stores	3,884.71		
Less written off	1,884.71		
	<u>2,000.00</u>		
By cash on hand and in bank	5,921.07		
By accounts receivable	18,133.75		
By fodder and butter on hand	4,000.00		
	<u>\$101,554.82</u>		

	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	\$ c.	\$ c.
To written off cattle	3,366.44		
To written off buildings	1,648.64		
To written off machinery & stores	1,884.71		
To written off furniture	217.85		
	<u>7,117.64</u>		
To bad debts	250.00		
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,550.00		
To interest	84.66		
To R. P. Moffitt (misappropriated fund)	5,296.15		
To balance	17,529.90		
	<u>\$31,928.35</u>		

	\$ c.	\$ c.
By balance from last year	15,192.68	
Less dividend	\$7,500.00	
Reserve fund	5,000.00	
	<u>12,500.00</u>	
By transfer fees	2,692.68	
	3.00	
By balance of working account	29,132.67	
	<u>\$31,928.35</u>	

The Court then called Navigating-Lieut. Cheng of the Wong Tai to testify as to the deviation of the cruiser. It was then adduced that the deviation chart was made up in Shanghai and it was discovered that her error was 5 degrees W.S.W. The Lieutenant further said that it had been said that the captain committed suicide. He was carried down with the vessel and he (witness) would like to prove it. The Court then adjourned.

HONGKONG STEAM WATER-BOAT CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the third annual general meeting to be held at the company's office, No. 37, Connaught Road, at noon on Tuesday, the 24th November:—

The consulting committee beg to submit to shareholders the annual report and accounts for the year ending 30th September, 1903.

ACCOUNTS.

It is very gratifying to the committee that the earnings of the past twelve months show a further improvement on those of last year.

The net profits after paying all working expenses are \$18,025.72, and after deducting interim dividend and consulting committee fees and adding balance brought forward from last year, interest and scrip fees, leave a total of \$15,884.27, which amount, with the approval of the shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Final dividend of 6 per cent. marking 12 per cent. for the year ... \$	4,491.00
Write off goodwill ...	5,225.00
Write off boats ...	4,478.37
Write off furniture ...	91.09
Write off Wanchai staging ...	50.00
Carry forward to new account	1,548.81
	\$ 15,884.27

GOODWILL.

The amount under this head will, after the provision made in this report, stand at \$1,000.00.

BOATS.

The new boat built by Messrs. Bailey and Co. was taken over by the company during the month of May, and has proved very satisfactory. All the boats are in good order.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Liao Tee San, having left the colony, ceased to be a member of the committee.

Mr. Francisco Tee Yat, of Messrs. Wing Kee and Co., has been invited to fill this vacancy, and this requires the confirmation of the shareholders at this meeting.

Mr. Chau Siu Ki retires from the committee, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

CHAU SIU KI,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 30th September, 1903.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
To capital 7,500 shares at \$10.00 each of which there was called up at date of last report 58,500.00	
Plus final call on 5,500 shares at \$3	16,500.00
	\$75,000.00
Less call on 50 shares unpaid	150.00
	74,850.00
To accounts payable	3,240.22
To unclaimed dividends	78.30
To profit and loss	15,884.27
	\$94,052.79

ASSETS.

By cash in hand	1,145.40
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	14,683.91
By value of boats as per last report \$41,283.68 Since added	26,265.06
	67,548.74
By furniture	191.09
By Wanchai staging	150.00
By sundry debtors	3,108.65
By goodwill	7,223.00
	\$91,052.79

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To interim dividend paid	\$3,966.02
To consulting committee for half-year	375.00
	4,341.02
To consulting committee and auditor	475.00
Balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Final dividend of 6 per cent.	\$1,491.00
Write off goodwill	5,225.00
Write off boats	4,478.37
Write off furniture	91.09
Write off Wanchai staging	50.00
Carry forward to new account	1,548.81
	\$ 15,884.27
	\$20,700.29

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward, 30th September, 1902	2,386.42
By interest	277.90
By scrip fees	10.25
By balance of working account	18,025.72
	\$20,700.29

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO. LTD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-seventh ordinary meeting, to be held on Tuesday, the 8th December, at noon.

The directors have now to lay before the shareholders the accompanying statement of accounts for the year ended 30th April last.

The net premia amount to \$1,515,874.72, and the working account shows a balance at credit of \$491,976.38, which sum the directors recommend be appropriated in the following manner:—

A dividend of 16 per cent. to shareholders (\$4 per share, \$ 96,000.00)	
A dividend of 15 per cent. on bonus-bearing contributions (payable to contributors whether shareholders or not) ...	110,000.00
Balance to underwriting suspense account ...	285,976.38
	\$491,976.38

Directors.—Mr. A. Haupt retired from the Board during the year; Mr. C. Michelau accepted the invitation of the directors to fill the vacancy, and his appointment will be submitted for the confirmation of shareholders. Messrs. E. Goetz and C. Michelau retire by rotation, and offer themselves for re-election.

Secretary.—The directors record with deep regret the enforced retirement—owing to a complete breakdown in health at the close of last year—of Mr. W. H. Ray, who had been in the service of the company for 33 years, and for 28 years its Secretary. In view of Mr. Ray's long and valued services, the directors decided to grant him a retiring allowance of £900 per annum.

Mr. James Whittall has been appointed to fill the vacant post.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and W. H. Potts, the latter replacing Mr. T. Arnold during his absent on leave. Messrs. Arnold and Jeffries offer themselves for re-election.

E. GOETZ,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 17th November, 1903.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 17th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

A SEA-WALL DISPUTE.

The case was again called in which Chan Ching Hop and others sued Chan Fuk for \$70, damages suffered by plaintiff through the breach by the defendant of a contract for the erection of a sea-wall. The particulars of the claim were as follows:—To six months' rent of ground at \$70 per month from 10th November 1902, till 10th May, 1903, \$420; to cost of pulling down and erecting defective wall built by defendant, \$280. Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, for the defendant.

After hearing further evidence on the point as to whether the contract had been waived by both parties,

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs. He found that the plaintiff was wrong in not dumping sufficient stone in the water for the defendant to carry on his work.

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 18th November.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A CASE ADJOURNED.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, who appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), stated that in the case in which Li Tsai was charged with the defilement of a girl under 16, defendant desired an adjournment till next Sessions as his counsel was unable to be present.

His Lordship—I have no objection.

The case was adjourned.

UNSATISFACTORY CASH.

The Attorney-General stated that in the case in which Lam I was charged with assaulting and robbing Mrs. Sheffield he had filed a bill, but in accordance with an intimation that the prosecution did not intend to proceed with the indictment, he asked that the prisoner be discharged.

The prisoner was liberated.

His Lordship remarked that it appeared that Mrs. Sheffield, who was prosecuting, had, without asking anybody, left the Colony after the prisoner was committed for trial, and after having put the police and the magistrate to the trouble of investigating the matter. It was obviously impossible to prove that the prisoner took part in the assault unless Mrs. Sheffield came forward to testify.

The Attorney-General—I propose to ask that this lady's recognisances be escheated.

His Lordship—Certainly; just the same as anyone else.

THE BELILIOS TERRACE ROBBERY.

Chan Cheung was charged with having on 16th September, along with certain other persons unknown, assaulted Miss A. M. Bateman and her amah in her house at 18, Belilos Terrace, and stolen two silver watches, a silver chain, and three rings. Alternatively the prisoner was charged with receiving the stolen goods.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. R. Berwick, D. J. Pettigart, J. T. d'Almada e Castro, W. Taylor, Wong Kissum, F. L. Ba n, and A. L. Alves.

The Attorney-General stated that this lady, Miss Bateman, was a teacher in Belilos Schools. One afternoon, while she was lying down and her amah was in the room with her, the prisoner, along with certain other men, entered the room and attacked the two women. Prisoner rushed at Miss Bateman and throttled her. Another man attacked in a similar way the amah. Miss Bateman had a very severe struggle with this person and he very nearly strangled her. In the result the men ransacked the room, first having overpowered the two women, whom they tied up and whose heads they covered with blankets and table-cloths, and stole a quantity of jewelry, among which were two watches. It was the theft of the watches that enabled the Crown to bring home against the prisoner the charge of being one of the men concerned in the robbery. He would produce a witness who would swear that at three o'clock on the same afternoon the prisoner pawned one of these watches. The Crown had had considerable difficulty in this case in tracing the perpetrator of this dastardly attack upon these two defenceless women, and it was only after patient and careful enquiry that at last the detectives who were put upon the track found out that a pawnbroker in the neighbourhood had one of the watches that had been stolen. The pawnbroker came forward and identified the prisoner as the man who pawned the watch. If, almost immediately after a robbery, a man was found in possession of the stolen property, the jury would be justified in finding that he committed the robbery.

Evidence having been heard, the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty on the first count.

The Attorney-General put in a previous conviction against the prisoner.

His Lordship deferred sentence.

Lui Ngau was brought up on a similar charge

—having been concerned in the robbery and assault upon Miss Bateman and her amah.

He also was found guilty.

His Lordship, in passing sentence upon the two prisoners, said they had been convicted of a cowardly robbery with violence upon Miss Bateman and her amah. They gained admittance to the house by knocking and presenting at the door a bogus letter to be given to Miss Bateman as if it had been an ordinary chit. The gang of several robbers ill-treated and nearly throttled her and her amah, and stole between \$300 and \$400 worth of jewelry. The jury had found that both prisoners were members of that gang. Although it was not proved that either of them personally laid hands on Miss Bateman or her amah, it was clear that their associates did so; and even if the prisoners did not, they were at least actually on the premises at the time aiding and abetting. With regard to Chan Cheung, it appeared—indeed, he himself had admitted—that he had been previously convicted by the magistrate and sentenced to one month's imprisonment for living on the proceeds of prostitution. The sentence upon him would be seven years' imprisonment with hard labour and 24 strokes of the birch during the first week of his incarceration. Liu Ngau had tried to minimise his share in the transaction by saying that he had nothing to do with the robbery, although he admitted he lived with the robbers knew about the robbery, and was asked by them to pawn some of the stolen goods. If Liu Ngau's own account was correct it was clearly his duty to report the matter to the police, so that the robbers might all have been arrested instead of escaping. The jury, however, did not believe prisoner's account, and had found that he was present on the premises, took part in the affair, and was of the gang, and that he aided and abetted them, even though he did not go upstairs. Sentence—five years' hard labour with a flogging of 24 strokes of the birch during the first week. His Lordship added that he had no power sitting there to deport the prisoners at the termination of their sentences, but he strongly recommended the Governor in Executive Council, who had that power, that at the end of their imprisonment both prisoners be deported as persons dangerous to the place of Hongkong, and he asked the senior police officer present (Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse) to make a note of his recommendation.

CRIMINAL ASSAULT.

Lam I, a boy of 16 years (by Chinese reckoning), was charged with having committed a criminal assault upon a Portuguese girl six years of age.

He pleaded guilty.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Crown.

His Lordship taking into consideration the youth of the prisoner, passed sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour, remarking that the offence was punishable with imprisonment for life, and how terrible a punishment that would be for a boy of the prisoner's age. His Lordship also ordered that he get a whipping of twelve strokes of the birch within the first week; he had no power, he said, to give the prisoner more, in consideration of his age.

The Court adjourned till to-day at 10 a.m.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

A CONTRACTOR'S CLAIM.

Tse Tsung, a building contractor, sued Yau Sin Chi for \$457.66 for work done. Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. J. Scott Harston, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors, for the defendant.

From the evidence it appeared that plaintiff had contracted to take the roof off a house belonging to defendant and put on another storey, for \$1,000. His claim was for extras that had to be done in the course of carrying out the contract. Defendant contended that the extras were included in the contract price. The plaintiff, after inspecting the building, said the walls of the house were able to bear another storey, but the Government surveyor held they were not; hence the extra work.

His Lordship, in the course of the hearing of the case, remarked that Chinese contractors did not seem to care whether they built a three-feet wall on the top of a two-feet wall so long as they got their money. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for \$446.63, and costs. The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 19th November.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE GRIFFITHS PERJURY CASE.

John Griffiths was brought up on a charge of having on the 12th and 16th October committed perjury in giving evidence at the Police Court in a case in which Leng Pat, a sampan-man, was charged with being found in possession of a quantity of rope and sacks that were alleged to have been stolen from the Naval Yard Extension Works. When asked to plead,

Prisoner said—I am guilty, but I was under the influence of drink and did not know what I was doing.

His Lordship—The charge against you, Griffiths, is this—that you made these statements on the 12th and 16th of October. What I understand you to mean by saying that you were under the influence of drink—having read the depositions—is that originally when you gave the man into custody you were under the influence of drink?

Prisoner—Yes.

His Lordship—You are not alleging that when you appeared before the Magistrate on the 12th and 16th October you were under the influence of drink?

Prisoner—I was muddled, your Lordship; the drink had so much of me that I did not know what I was doing.

His Lordship—The indictment is that you well knew at the time that what you swore was not true. I presume you had sufficient intelligence to know that what you said was not true?

Prisoner—I was muddled, your Lordship.

His Lordship—I do not know whether I can take that as a plea of guilty. What do you say, Mr. Attorney?

The Attorney-General (Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley)—We have the evidence, my Lord, of the inspector and others, and will call it if necessary. I do not think the man wants it however.

His Lordship—I will accept your plea and deal with the matter if you do not mean to say that at the time you gave the evidence you were so drunk that you did not know what you were doing. I understand you had been drunk at the time you gave the man into custody.

Prisoner—I was drunk all day and all night. I was muddled and I did not know what I was talking about.

His Lordship—I am afraid, Mr. Attorney, I cannot take that as a plea of guilty, if he says he did not know what he was talking about, because the crime of perjury is that he well knew that what he said was false.

The Attorney-General—Well, he is an Englishman, my Lord, and understands. If he wants to be tried by a jury we are ready with evidence, but I do not think he wants it.

His Lordship—if you want to be tried by a jury here, then we will try you, but I have read these depositions and I quite understand you to say that when you gave this man into custody, and say you saw the rope on the sampan, you were in a muddled sort of state and had been drinking. The question is, what state you were in when you gave evidence before the Magistrate on the 12th and 16th October. You then swore that you found the rope on the man's sampan. Now, according to the depositions, it is clear you did not find it in the sampan but it was in the shed, and upon that this man was convicted. Then he was re-tried and let off as it was found you had made a mistake. If you say now that, when you gave that evidence before the Magistrate, you were drunk, then we must try you; but if you mean that you were sober when you gave the evidence then we can accept your plea. What do you say?

Prisoner—Guilty, my Lord.

His Lordship—I think that is the most sensible course to follow. It is quite clear that the

Magistrate would not have taken your evidence on those two days if you had been drunk.

Sentence was deferred till later in the sitting to allow some particulars about Griffiths' career to be found out.

The Attorney-General then stated that he had been 13 years in the Navy and seven years a boatswain in the P. & O. Co.

His Lordship, in passing sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labour, said he took into consideration the prisoner's previous services, and the fact that he would lose his pension of £13 per annum.

ROBBERY IN THE HARBOUR.

Leung Shing-ki and Ho Ngau were charged with having assaulted and robbed of several articles of jewelry a sampan-woman in Hung-hom Bay on the 2nd inst.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. A. H. Milroy, W. F. Gardner, C. H. Blasou, N. H. Rutherford, A. H. A. Koeckner, J. Hunter, and F. M. X. Figueirido.

The Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor) conducted the prosecution. In opening the case he said that on the evening of the day in question prisoners and another man hired a sampan at Hunghom. There was only a woman in the sampan. She rowed them out into the bay. Taking advantage of her unprotected state they attacked her, stripped her of all her jewelry, and threw her into the water. She screamed, and this attracted the attention of two Indian artillerymen, who captured the two men as they came ashore. The prisoners' defence was that they were only "larking."

After hearing evidence, the jury found the prisoners guilty as libelled.

His Lordship sentenced them each to three years' imprisonment with hard labour and to receive 24 strokes with the birch within the first week; he also recommended that at the end of their imprisonment they be deported.

The Court rose.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. THE GARRISON.

It was (of course) about noon when the match between the Club and the Garrison commenced on the Cricket Ground. The Garrison went in to bat first, Chichester having won the toss; Smith and Heath faced the bowling of Lowe and Sercombe Smith. The first three overs produced four runs, but in Sercombe Smith's second over Heath let out and made 10. Smith imitated his example off Lowe's bowling, but Heath was then dismissed at the other end, the score being 26. Three runs later Boyd, who followed in, was caught off Lowe. On Radcliffe's arrival a small stand was made, and the score was brought to 45 before Smith left, caught off his namesake's bowling for an useful 29. Chichester stopped till 61, and Radcliffe and Davies played on up to the tiffin interval, when the score was 77 for four wickets. On resumption Davies was quickly out, making 84 for 5, and then followed the Garrison's biggest stand, causing frequent changes of bowlers, and adding 46 runs, of which Hodgson made 20 in only five hits. The next three men did nothing, the seventh, eighth, and ninth wickets falling at 134, 142, and 147; but with Bradford in as last man Radcliffe forced the pace considerably. Bradford being missed by Hancock, the score mounted fast, and it was not until 178 had been recorded that Radcliffe was run out in attempting to steal a run. His 7½ was a distinctly good innings for his side, but he was very lucky, being let off three times behind the wicket alone.

When the Club went in with less than a couple of hours to make 179 in, it did not look at all probable that they would succeed unless an extra good pace could be kept up, and the start was not at all promising. Bradford's bowling being difficult to hit. However, it was Chichester who took the first wicket, getting Sercombe Smith out, 1 b.w., at 2½. Maitland was out at 31, and Hancock at 46, so that the odds were on the Garrison then. Turner and Dixon next got together, and somewhat altered the complexion of affairs, putting on 38 runs between them, of which Dixon's share was 27. Arthur came in to hit, and succeeded in making

[November 21, 1903.]

two boundaries, but was then bowled by Bradford. A series of disasters came on now, Turner being out sixth at 118, having made a pretty and patient 34 out of the 87 while he was in; Pearce left at 122, Mackenzie and Bird at 141, and all seemed over. Mast was still in, and there was Lowe to come, but 38 runs were still required, and the light had become, to say the least, poor. No one would have been surprised, therefore, to see a speedy termination and a defeat for the Club. As a matter of fact, what followed was one of the most sensational pieces of play ever seen on the Hongkong Ground. The bowlers, especially Heath, were bowling for all they were worth, but instead of dismaying the forlorn hope of the Club this seemed to infuse extra vigour into Mast's and Lowe's play. The veteran in particular seemed to delight in hitting Heath (who, it is true, hit Mast frequently in return), and the score mounted by leaps and boundaries. Only 31 runs had been scored off Heath's first 12 overs; in his next six 50 more were added! When the match was a tie enthusiasm was great, and the winning hit was tremendously applauded—for Hongkong. The two batsmen continued, however, to hit about until 196 was reached, when Lowe was caught and bowled by Chichester for an excellent 22. Mast carried his bat for a faultless 43, one of his best contributions to local cricket, and was deservedly brought into the Pavilion shoulder-high. His pluck and eye were wholly admirable. It is fortunate that Lowe also rose to the occasion for otherwise a really exciting spectacle would have been missed.

Scores and analysis:

THE GARRISON.

I. Smith, R.A., c Mackenzie, b T.S. Smith	29
Lt. Heath, 101 Mahr., b T.S. Smith	10
Capt. Boyd, R.A., c sub., b A.R. Lowe	0
Capt. Radcliffe, R.E., run out	74
Major Chichester, D.A.A.G. (capt.), b T.S. Smith	8
Capt. P.G. Davies, A.O.D., c sub., b Pearce	9
Lt. Hodgson, S.F., c H. Hancock, b Mackenzie	20
Lt. Kimington, S.F., c Bird, b J.T. Dixon	2
Capt. Riach, R.A., c Arthur, b Dixon	7
Lt. Dobbyn, R.A., b Mackenzie	1
Pte. Bradford, A.O.C., not out	6
Extras	1
Total	178

H.K.C.C.

T. S. Smith (capt.), l.b.w., b Chichester	3
F. Maitland, b Kimington	22
W. C. D. Turner, b Heath	34
H. Hancock, c Rimington, b Heath	10
J. T. Dixon, c Radcliffe, b Heath	17
H. Arthur, b Bradford	8
T. E. Pearce, c Heath, b Bradford	14
E. Mast, not out	43
A. Mackenzie, c Smith, b Heath	0
R. E. O. Bird, b Chichester	4
A. R. Lowe, c and b Chichester	22
Extras	9
Total	196

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE GARRISON.

	O.	M.	R.	w.
Lowe	6	1	20	1
Sercombe Smith	14	3	46	3
Bird	8	2	33	—
Pearce	3	1	17	1
Dixon	10	1	23	2
Mackenzie	8	1	28	2
Hancock	1.6	—	—	—
H.K.C.C.	0.	M.	R.	w.
Bradford	17	5	51	2
Chichester	10.5	2	33	3
Rimington	8	2	22	1
Heath	18	1	81	4

The *Japan Mail* writes:—From the 1st instant telegraphic communication between Moukden and Peking is said to have been interrupted, and the Chinese Court is all the more perplexed as to the proper course to adopt, being in ignorance of the progress of events in the Manchurian capital. Any Power with the slightest shred of a practical sense of national dignity would regard Russia's action with the utmost gravity. But though China knows well what national dignity means in theory, she is so unhappy as to be unable to assert her knowledge. Does she see, however, that all these difficulties are primarily of her own making?

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG F.C. v. R.G.A.

This match, played on the Happy Valley ground on Saturday, resulted in a win for the Hongkong F.C. by three goals to one.

Hongkong won the toss, and thereby secured a material advantage, setting their opponents to play against a strong glare from the sun.

The Artillery went off with a rush, but the Hongkong halves were all there, and easily frustrated all attempts to get within shooting distance. Play was for some time confined to mid-field and somewhat desultory in character; but at length the H.K.'s went down in a line, and Danby tested Edwards with an oblique shot from the wing. From the ensuing goal-kick the Artillery bore down on the Hongkong citadel, but Bonnar—who was playing a fine game—intervened, and transferred play to the other end. A period of give-and-take play ensued; then Gough, securing the ball, shot hard and straight at Kew, who experienced some difficulty in effecting a clearance—in fact it appeared as if he carried the ball beneath the bar in doing so. The Hongkong backs were playing a strong game, their kicking being well-timed and powerful, but Aucott was the more prominent.

It was apparent at this stage of the game that the H.K.F.C. men were more skilful in the manipulation of the ball than their military opponents, and, after a pretty piece of combination between Danby and Whitmore, the latter ended by sending in a shot just above the bar. The Artillery, in response to the exhortations of their supporters, again got away, but found the opposing halves too strong for them, Bonnar putting in some good work. Edwards in goal was kept busily occupied, but showed himself equal to all emergencies. More effective combination by the Hongkong forwards followed, and Macdonald, from the half-back line, put in a shot which beat Edward all the way, the ball going in at the corner of the net. The Hongkong halves were feeding their forwards with good judgment, and Danby again attempted to score, but the ball went wide of the posts. It was evident that the Hongkong team were the superiors, their opponents being seldom able to get within range of Kew, and after another good run, the ball being passed along the whole forward line, it was taken along by Danby, who centred across the mouth of the goal, and Cooper had no difficulty in administering the finishing touch. Half-time arrived with the score:—H.K.F.C. 2, R.G.A. 0.

On resuming, the Hongkong forwards immediately bore down upon the soldiers' goal—now kept by Copper, who, having been crippled in the first half, had changed places with Edwards. The ball was passed across to Danby, who sent in a sky-scaper. The Artillery were now playing a harder game, and after a brisk run Gough sent in a stinger which beat Kew, the military spectators testifying their elation at his success. Again the play reared to the other end, and four corners were conceded to the Hongkong team, but were of no avail. When the siege was raised, Gough again got within shooting distance, and sent in a beauty, straight at Kew, who, however, held his charge intact. Aucott and Bonnar had changed places in this half, and the latter showed his all-round capability by his sterling work in his new position. It was now a foregone conclusion that the soldiers were to meet with defeat, and in the last minute of the game a pretty combined passing run by the Hongkong men, and a good centre by Cooper, enabled Whitmore, by a fine scoring shot, to make victory a certainty and the game concluded with the scores:—

Hongkong F.C. 3
R.G.A. 1

The teams were:—

H.K.F.C.: Goal, F. H. Kew; backs, H. C. Austen and R. F. Aucott; half backs, G. B. Macdonald, J. W. C. Bonnar, and J. M. Forrester; forwards, W. H. Williams, H. A. Brent, C. R. S. Cooper, R. A. Whitmore, and J. D. Danby.

R.G.A.: Goal, T. Edwards; backs, Loughran and Boyle; halves, Spence, Copper, and Duley; forwards, Gough, Gibin, Toone, Catterall and Browning.

Referee, Mr. Frank Browne.

At the conclusion of the match Mrs. Atkinson presented the Challenge Cup and the medals to the winners in the six-a-side competition.

To-day the H.K.F.C., "A" team will meet the V.R.C. 2nd XI. at 4.30 p.m. The following will be the teams:—

H.K.F.C.:—Goal, A. N. Other; backs, C. T. Kew (Capt.), H. C. Austen; halves, J. M. Forrester, W. T. Caulfield, R. E., H. E. Gaskell, R. E.; forwards, E. J. Davies, W. H. Williams, P. H. Campbell, R. E., and L. C. Rees.

V.R.C.:—Goal—W. A. Crake; backs, J. Witchell and J. Christie; halves, H. C. Sayer, W. Andrews, F. D. Bain; forwards, H. W. Sayer, J. H. Seth, R. Henderson, C. Humphreys, and A. Marti.

HONGKONG GUN CLUB.

ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

On Saturday the championship meeting of the Hongkong Gun Club concluded, having commenced on the previous day. More than usual interest attached to the contest this year, as it was H.E. the Governor's last chance of securing the championship, for which he has twice been beaten only after a tie with the ultimate winner. Unfortunately, he had to fire with a damaged finger, which caused him some pain. Had he been in the best of form, however, he would have had to do wonderfully to beat the actual victor, Mr. A. Campbell Macmillan, for the latter fired in magnificent style and only dropped one point, at end of the first ten. There was a desperate struggle for third place. There were thirteen entries, and the scores were as follows:—

Mr. A. C. Macmillan	... 11111—11110—9	19
	11111—11111—10	19
Sir. H. A. Blake	... 11110—01111—8	16
	11110—11011—8	16
Mr. A. G. Wise	... 10010—11110—6	15
	11111—01111—9	15
Mr. G. T. Veitch	... 11101—01110—7	15
	11101—11011—8	15
Dr. Noble	... 10110—11111—8	14
	0110—11011—6	14
Mr. J. Johnstone	... 11110—11110—8	14
	10010—11011—6	14
Lieut. Bland	... 10010—11111—7	14
	11101—01110—7	14
Mr. A. Turner	... 11010—10110—6	13
	01101—01111—7	13
Mr. H. W. Looker	... 11010—11110—7	13
	01001—11011—6	13
Mr. Hart Buck	... 01110—01010—5	12
	01110—11011—7	12
Mr. R. K. Leigh	... 01000—11000—3	11
	11111—10101—8	11
Mr. G. C. Moxon	... 10010—1100—4	9
	11110—00010—5	9
Capt. Butcher	... 01011—10011—6	9
	11010... 3	9

INTERPORT RIFLE MATCH.

HONGKONG NOT LAST.

Mr. M. S. Northcote informed us yesterday afternoon that he had received a telegram from Penang announcing that they had scored 750 in the Interport Rifle Match. This makes the final position as follows:—

Singapore 627
Shanghai 915
Hongkong 891
Penang 750

Penang thus retains the wooden spoon which last year she won with a score of 871 and the year before with 721.

UNION CHURCH LITERARY CLUB.

Members of the Union Church Literary Club spent a most enjoyable evening on Thursday, the occasion being a lecture by Mr. G. Grimble on "Frederick Cowen and his Compositions." The speaker lectured with clearness on the beauties of the works of that notable composer. The lecture finished, a few of the listeners played a number of Cowen's compositions to an appreciative audience:—Miss Shaw, 'Dances'; Mr. Brand, 'Light in Darkness'; Miss Ley Kum, 'The Better Land'; Mrs. Johnson, 'It was a dream'; Mrs. Mackenzie, 'The Children's Home'; Mr. Inglis, 'The Promise of Life.'

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS.

The four championship yachts contested their second race on Saturday afternoon, commencing at half-past one.

An eleven-mile course from a line off Police Pier, Kowloon, to Kowloon Rocks, Channel Rocks and Meyer's East Buoy, twice around, and then home, was the track.

The weather was fine and a light but steady wind came from the east. A cloudless blue sky added cheerfulness to the scene; altogether the day was ideal for yachting.

Aileen got the foremost position at second gun fire, but *Vernon*, gathering headway before the others, drew up to first place. Being outside, she also profited somewhat by being able to make a longer inshore tack than the at the outset. Initially, *Elsbeth* was third and *Dione* last; it was not long, however, before they changed places.

Passing the reclamation works and heading for Blackhead's Pier, *Vernon* led by about 3 lengths; *Aileen* closely followed by, and losing ground to *Dione*, was second, and *Elsbeth* brought up the rear a long way behind.

Vernon passed Blackhead's Flagstaff a little over four minutes ahead of the second boat; and she secured a slightly fresher breeze than the others astern. Also, while the latter were still reaching by short tacks, she was able to maintain her course towards Kowloon Dock peninsula, thereby gaining all the time.

Aileen and *Dione* paired when nearing Blackhead's, but *Aileen* drew ahead again before the Point was reached. She passed the Point half a minute ahead of *Dione*; one minute divided *Elsbeth* and *Dione*.

A plain sail on the starboard tack was maintained by all the yachts when crossing Hunghom Bay. Half way over *Dione* drew up on *Aileen* and secured second place. *Dione*, *Aileen* and *Elsbeth* then formed into an equidistant procession.

On timing the yachts as they rounded the Peninsula it was found that *Vernon* continued to lead by about four minutes; *Dione* was about 2½ minutes ahead of *Aileen*; and one minute or so separated third and fourth.

After gybing around Kowloon Rocks, the first plain sail on the port tack was commenced. *Vernon*, still gaining slightly, leaned over to the breeze, which was just the right force for comfortably carrying all canvas. *Aileen* lost ground to *Dione*.

On rounding Channel Rocks spinnakers were set and main booms slacked off on the starboard side. The loose canvas bellying to the wind drove the yachts along at a good pace. *Vernon*, by the way, passed the latter point nearly five minutes ahead of *Dione*; *Dione* was 3½ minutes ahead of *Aileen*; and *Elsbeth* half a minute behind the latter.

Meyer's East Buoy was rounded by *Vernon* 5½ minutes ahead of *Dione*, 9½ minutes ahead of *Aileen*, and over ten minutes ahead of *Elsbeth*.

When rounding Kowloon Rocks and Channel Rocks for the second time *Vernon* and *Dione* were about the same distance apart. *Aileen* and *Elsbeth*, however, divided by some twenty or thirty seconds, had lost another four minutes or so on the foremost boats. *Vernon* won easily. Times:

<i>Vernon</i>	3	43	42
<i>Dione</i>	3	52	50
<i>Aileen</i>	4	0	40
<i>Elsbeth</i>	4	2	2

Vernon's average speed was nearly three miles an hour.

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

On Sunday afternoon at one o'clock four of the five one-design yachts were started. *Colleen* alone was absent, the rev. H. E. Pollock K.C., her owner, having gone to Tientsin.

The course was the same as that used by the one-designers on Saturday.

A fresh wind was blowing from the east. At the outset the sky was fine and clear; shortly after the commencement, however, it became a dull overcast.

Min and *Bonit*, got the best start; *Kathleen* third; and *Erica* behind *Min*, it may be remarked, had a narrow shave of crossing the line before second gun fire.

Bonito, *Erica*, and *Kathleen* were almost together when off Kowloon peninsula.

Some tough head-reaching was undergone to

make the Dock Peninsula. On rounding it, the yachts were put on the starboard tack till Kowloon Rocks were reached. Then, a slant on the port tack was made towards Channel Rocks; it was necessary to make a short tack before fetching this point.

Rounding Channel Rocks the race was a little over 50 minutes old. The order was: *Erica*, *Bonito* and *Kathleen* almost together, and *Min*. One minute separated first and second, and about ½ first and fourth.

On the passage to Meyer's East Buoy the yachts were primarily in procession, running before the wind with their booms slackened out to starboard and spinnakers on the other side.

Kathleen drew up and passed *Bonito* when well on the way to Meyer's Buoy. After rounding, the boats were put on the starboard tack and headed across the harbour towards Kowloon Bay. Nearing Kowloon Dock Peninsula *Bonito* drew up almost level with *Kathleen*. *Erica* was about a minute ahead of these boats, and *Min* about a minute behind them.

Then followed a run over a portion of the same course already traversed. After rounding Channel Rocks for the second time and setting off for home via Meyer's East Buoy, a smacking pace was attained. Result —

<i>Erica</i>	3	10	35
<i>Kathleen</i>	3	14	50
<i>Min</i>	3	15	48
<i>Bonito</i>	3	17	5

SECOND CLASS.

The second class followed in the wake of the one-designers, starting ten minutes after them. Seven yachts of this group turned out, those absent being *Meteor* and *Maid Marian*.

Iris and *Alannah*, closely followed by *Doreen* and *Chanticleer*, got the best start. Next came *Mist* and *Gloria*; *Payne* was some distance behind. At Kowloon Dock Peninsula *Alannah* was first, *Iris* second, about two minutes behind; *Chanticleer* and *Gloria*, close together, next; and *Doreen*, *Mist*, and *Payne* a long way astern. *Alannah* gained steadily almost from the start. After rounding Kowloon Rocks and Channel Rocks in turn she ran before the wind at a smart rate, reaching Meyer's East Buoy five minutes ahead of the next boat.

When the rearguard, consisting of *Doreen*, *Mist*, and *Payne*, were rounding Meyer's East Buoy for the first time, *Alannah* was passing Kowloon Dock peninsula.

The finishing order and times were:—

		Corrected.
<i>Alannah</i>	3	24 41
<i>Gloria</i>	3	31 28
<i>Iris</i>	3	32 17
<i>Chanticleer</i>	3	32 44
<i>Payne</i>	3	45 35
<i>Doreen</i>	3	47 40
<i>Mist</i>	3	52 50

When corrected the order is:— *Gloria*, *Chanticleer*, *Alannah*, *Iris*, *Mist*, *Payne*, and *Doreen*.

THE ALLEN CASE AT MANILA.

The U.S. Supreme Court has at last handed down its decision in the matter of the petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Frank Stanley Allen. Allen in his petition alleges that he is being unlawfully detained by W. Morgan Shuster, Collector of Customs, who threatens to deport him as an alien contract laborer under the Act of Congress passed March 3d 1903.

The decision reviews all the Acts of Congress on the question and finds that, until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury appoints other officers to execute the immigration laws, the administration lawfully remains in the hands of those officers appointed by the President through the Secretary of War and that the Collector of Customs has authority to enforce the law.

The petition for the discharge of the prisoner is consequently denied, but permission is granted him to address the Court on the two other questions referred to in his petition. Whether or not he is a member of a learned profession; and whether accountants of like kind, unemployed, can or cannot be found in the islands.

THE V.R.C. REGATTA.

The following crews were chosen on Saturday evening to compete in the V.R.C. Regatta for the German Cup:—

"Rose"	"Kornblume"
G. H. Rubie	N. H. Alves
D. Bain	A. Loureiro
R. C. Witchell	H. C. Austin
R. Lapsley (stroke)	A. E. Alves (stroke)
Cox, H. M. Bain	Cox, S. A. Seth
"Shamrock"	"Thistle"
F. K. Tata	A. E. Asger
H. S. Holmes	J. A. S. Alves
A. M. Roza Pereira	L. A. Mu so
C. E. A. Lance (stroke)	J. Miller (stroke)
Cox, C. M. S. Alves	Cox, F. W. White

The following crews to compete for the Parsee Cup:—

Station No. 1	Station No. 2
"Rose"	"Thistle"
O. R. Chunnert	E. M. dos Remedios
S. M. Gidley	A. Marti
H. A. Lammert	A. J. N. Rebeiro
J. H. Seth (stroke)	J. J. Watson (stroke)
Cox, F. Lammert	Cox, J. Millar
Station No. 3	Station No. 4
"Shamrock"	"Kornblume"
H. M. Bain	L. E. Lammert
C. Humphrey's	T. E. Pearce
J. Witchell	H. B. Sayer
H. Lapp	J. I. Jordon
Cox, F. W. White	Cox, S. A. Seth

The following crews were chosen to compete for the Chinese Cup:—

Station No. 1	Station No. 2
"Rose."	"Leek."
L. E. Lammert	G. Lambert
T. E. Pearce	A. Marti
H. W. Sayer	G. F. A. Barros
J. P. Jordan (stroke)	A. N. Barros (stroke)
Cox, S. A. Seth	Cox, N. H. Alves
Station No. 3	Station No. 4
"Shamrock."	"Kornblume."
A. G. V. Ribeiro	O. R. Chunnert
S. M. Gidley	C. Humphrey's
H. A. Lammert	H. M. Bain
J. H. Seth (stroke)	H. Rapp (stroke)
Cox, F. Lammert	Cox, F. W. White

Station No. 4	Station No. 5
"Thistle."	"Kornblume."
A. E. Sheffield	O. R. Chunnert
W. H. Andrews	C. Humphrey's
J. J. Watson	H. M. Bain
J. Witchell (stroke)	H. Rapp (stroke)
Cox, R. C. Witchell	Cox, F. W. White

THE "EMPERESS OF INDIA'S" COLLISION CASE.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. White Cooper, in opening the case said the question they had then to consider was whether the owners of the *Empress of India* were responsible for the unfortunate collision, which resulted in 13 lives being lost. He produced a model of the cruiser in order to show her build, style, etc. She was a composite cruiser built at the Foochow Arsenal and launched some 15 years ago. (Counsel here gave the dimensions of the cruiser, etc). Her ordinary speed was 9 to 9½ knots, but on one occasion when carrying Viceroy Cheung Chi-tung she made 12 knots. She was under the command of Commander Chee Fung Yee, an experienced naval officer with 2½ years' service in the Chinese Navy, who unfortunately was one of those who perished. He had been in command of the cruiser about 6 months when the collision occurred. His previous command was in the man-of-war *Sei Kee*. The *Wong Tai* carried a complement of 178 officers and crew all told, as well as six gentlemen passengers, friends of the captain. She was on her way with arms and ammunition for the authorities to Canton for use in quelling the rebellion there. The collision occurred on the night of the 1st August. The weather was clear, and there was no moon everything could be seen

a good distance off. Both ships were proceeding in the same direction. Those on the *Empress of India* must have seen the cruiser 30 miles from the scene of the disaster and been watching her for fully two hours. At the time the cruiser was going 9½ knots, and the *Empress* at 14. There was plenty of sea-room, and it was not a case of one ship overtaking another in a narrow water-way. The course of the two vessels was as nearly as possible parallel. Counsel said that at 9.30 p.m. the cruiser's course was S. W. by W. ; the equivalent to this was S. 66 W. true. At that time the course of the *Empress* was S. 64 W. At 11 p.m. the cruiser's course was S. 65 W., showing that she had edged out a little from the coast. The course of the *Empress* at 11.30 p.m. was S. 68 W., which showed that she had edged in a little. The explanation for these slight variations was that the cruiser was passing outside while the *Empress* was passing inside Pedro Blanco Island.

This was important as the defendants stated that the courses of the two vessels were divergent, while he, counsel, would adduce evidence to prove that they were convergent. As far as he could ascertain the *Empress's* course was inside the Pedro Blanco Island when those on the *Empress* would, he believed, say that when they first saw the cruiser's stern light it was right ahead, but as they got nearer it appeared on the starboard, so that it would appear that the cruiser was in the inside and the *Empress* on the outside course. After watching the cruiser's stern light for a couple of hours those on the *Empress* had plenty of time to make up their minds what to do. They should have borne in mind the Regulations for Preventing Accidents at Sea. (Counsel here read out article 24 of the Regulations, which provided that a vessel overtaking another should keep out of her course. Article 22 provided that a vessel which was directed by these rules to keep out of the way of another vessel, should, if circumstances permitted, avoid crossing ahead of the other.)

Continuing, counsel said this showed what was the duty of those on board the *Empress*. The duty of the cruiser was laid down in article 21, which provided that if a ship overtaking another had altered her course she must show to the Court that she had good reasons to do so, and the alteration must be of a proper and right kind. These rules were simple, and known to all, so it was not necessary to say much about them. They simply meant that the *Empress* was bound to keep out of the way of the cruiser, and the cruiser was bound not to do anything to hamper or defeat the *Empress* in that duty. The evidence for the cruiser would be given by the officers who were on watch. They unfortunately had not the captain of the cruiser, but the officers would say that he did the right thing and gave no orders to change her course, even when the *Empress* came nearer, as it was believed that the latter would observe article 24. Instead of which the *Empress* came straight on, and struck on the port quarter. After the collision the captain of the cruiser gave the order to port her helm, but the two vessels were then in actual contact, the stern of the *Empress* being against the port side of the cruiser, in whose side she must have cut a hole with her propeller, but as regarded that there was no certainty, as the diver's report had not been received. Immediately after the collision they knew that the *Empress* did the right thing and rendered every assistance, and the boats of both vessels transferred the crew and passengers of the cruiser to the *Empress*, with the exception of those already mentioned. The captain of the cruiser was coming down to the gangway when the cruiser went down and carried him with her. All agreed as to the state of the weather, and that all regulation lights were properly burning on both vessels, and each saw the other's lights for a long time. Mr. Sharp said they were willing to admit that all the lights were in order. Mr. White Cooper said it was also agreed that the *Empress* was the overtaking vessel within the meaning of Art. 24. Mr. Sharp said that while he did not attach much importance to the fact, it should be remembered that an hour and a half elapsed before the cruiser

sank after the collision. Mr. White Cooper put in the bearings of the wreck, and continuing, said that one great point on which they differed was as to whether the cruiser had altered her course, and said there were always great differences in the accounts of what people did on one ship, and how their action appeared to those on another, and also pointed out the many discrepancies between the logs of the two vessels. In this case all the witnesses for the cruiser were Chinese, and he hoped the Court would make allowances on that account. In the interpretation much of the real thread of the story was lost, and their evidence would not have the effect of the evidence of Captain Mah, who stated that he had been deputy commander of the *Wong Tai* for 10 years; and over 20 years in the Chinese Navy. He was on board the cruiser when the collision occurred, and he described the build, tonnage, number of crew, etc., and added that there were no foreigners on board. His watch was from 4 to 8 p.m.; all lights were in proper order. He was asleep when the collision occurred, but being awakened he went on the poop, and then saw the starboard side of the *Empress* grazing along the cruiser's port (witness here with the aid of the model showed how the ships collided). He saw the stern of the *Empress* touch the port quarter of the cruiser, and on examining the damage done found a big hole on the port quarter and the water coming in. He gave orders to work the pumps. He then went on board the *Empress*, when the cruiser sank stern first. The fair copies of the logs (deck and engine-room) were lost. In cross-examination the witness stated that the cruiser could be easily steered. The engines had already been stopped when he came on deck.

Quartermaster Cheng Ya stated that he was on duty at the time of the collision; he received orders as to his course, viz: W.S.S., from the captain. He received no orders to alter the course up to the time of the collision, and he never altered her course. He knew ships would not answer their helms when they were in collision. He did not see the collision. The cruiser answered her helm very quickly, but he could not say how long it would take to take her 6 points off her course. He saw no junks or fishing boats on his course.

He was able to tell the time, and always carried his watch with him.

Chau Kin Tong, 3rd officer of the *Wong Tai*, said he had been 5 years in the navy. He was on the bridge when the collision occurred; there were two men on the forecastle, and two men astern on watch, another was on the lower bridge. Before 11 o'clock they were steering W.S.W., after 11 the course was altered to W. by S. & S. (Witness here gave evidence as to the lights.) He noticed no change in the *Empress's* course from the time he first saw her until the time of the collision. (By use of models witness showed how the collision occurred.) It was about 8 feet from the stern where the *Empress* struck the cruiser. The captain was directing the navigation of the cruiser at the time. After the impact both vessels drifted away from each other. He was prepared to swear that the cruiser's bow did not strike the bow of the *Empress*, but the boats came side by side, thus causing the collision. He heard no shouting from the *Empress* to port helm. In cross-examination witness testified that the captain went backwards and forwards between the bridge and the lower deck during the night watches.

Chang Si, navigating lieutenant of the *Wong Tai*, said he had been 17 years in the navy, and 2 months on the *Wong Tai*. He corroborated the last witness, and added that he was quite familiar with the coast, and gave evidence as to the weather and tide at the time of the collision, and also as to the course. The course would take him outside Pedro Blanco Island. The first light on the *Empress* he saw was the masthead light; that was about 11 p.m. The vessel was dead astern, and he saw both the red and green lights. The would be about 8 miles off. He heard the captain say "All right," so he knew the captain heard the report of the 3rd lieutenant regarding the approach of the steamer. The *Empress* was then getting closer and closer. The captain of the cruiser showed no anxiety. He knew it was the other vessel's duty to keep out of the way. He did not hear the captain

give any orders to alter the course. He could form an opinion from watching the *Empress's* lights that her course was being altered. After the collision his vessel ported her helm by the captain's order.

The Court here adjourned.

On resuming the hearing of the case on the 7th inst., the examination of Chang, the navigating lieutenant, was continued. He said that a few minutes after the collision he went below, and then noticed that some boats and a gun had been damaged. The gun was a 40 pdr., and projected more than a foot from the ship's side. Going further below, he saw the water pouring in, but did not know from where. He felt no anxiety when the *Empress* came close, as he knew she must get out of the way. He saw no junks near the steamer, but saw a poor light on his port. He did think the steamer behind would pass very close, but if she passed a mile away it would be a very safe distance. (Mr. Shurpe said that would undoubtedly be so if it was a Chinese man-of-war.) Witness, continuing, said the ram projected about 13 feet. It would take 6 minutes for a ship to turn in a complete circle 700 yards in diameter. He knew it because he was told so. (His Lordship interposed and said Mr. White Cooper was really cross-examining witness and leading him.) Witness said just after the collision he saw some junks. They approached very close, but not alongside.

The navigating lieutenant, re-called, said that when the approach of the *Empress* was reported to the captain the latter said "Keep your course." The *Empress* was then six or seven miles astern. Witness knew the rules regarding avoiding collisions at sea, and considered that the captain of the cruiser did the right thing. At no stage of the collision did the bows of the two steamers come into contact. Witness did not change his course at any time during his watch for a junk. They had no collision mat on board. No attempt was made to stop the hole, but the pumps were worked. The cruiser sank in 1½ hours. Witness then repeated his former evidence. He then added that it was not quite calm; there was a No 2 force wind blowing, and described again the speed and course. He only had time to save the rough log; the other books in the chart-room were not saved. He left the *Wong Tai* in the last boat just before she sank. The captain was busy all the time superintending the filling of the boats and so on. Directly the helm was put over the cruiser always answered at once. Sui Hui Ching, assistant gunner, gave similar evidence, adding that he had been 7 years on the *Wong Tai*, and knew what a collision-mat was. There were several on board. They were not used because one was found too small. The case was at this stage again adjourned until to-day.

Captain Marshall in his evidence said that when he saw the *Wong Tai* edging in he starboarded his helm, and slackened speed. The cruiser's course was altered by about 6 points; all the blades of his propeller were injured. One blade was bent in one, and another in the opposite direction, while, had the propeller been revolving, they would have all been bent in the same direction. He could give no reason for the cruiser porting her course. The second and third officers of the *Empress* gave similar testimony, adding that in their opinion, had the cruiser not altered her course there would have been no danger of a collision. (The Chinese officers in Court showed great interest in the above evidence.) It was 1½ to 2 minutes before the collision that the cruiser altered her course. The chief engineer of the *Empress* gave evidence as to the damage to that steamer, and expressed the opinion that the damage was done by the ram of the cruiser, and was corroborated by Mr. Newman Marshall, Lloyd's surveyor, who surveyed the *Empress* in dock. Evidence was then given by the quartermaster in charge of the wheel at the time of the collision, which was the same as that of the second and third officers of the *Empress*.

The Court after hearing all the evidence deferred the announcement of its decision.

The United States are endeavouring to secure the opening of Atiju [? Wijuj instead of Yong-ampho], and are sending Mr. Allen, the Minister to Corea, to Chemulpo on board a warship in order to impress the Coreans.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 12th November.
Messrs. A. E. Burkill and Son's Circular.—The home markets are weak, Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12/9. Raw Silk.—A sale of Gold Kiling is reported at Tls. 635, but there is practically no business doing. Yellow Silks.—About 200 Bales have been settled, the market closing easy. Hand Filatures are neglected. Steam Filatures are considerably above home ideas and holders are less ready to make concessions on account of the sudden drop in exchange. Waste Silk.—Market weaker in sympathy with home markets.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 20th November.—There is no market and the prices are declining.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$8.60 per cwt.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55 "
Do. No. 1, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.45 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.85 "
Shekloong	10.75 to 10.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG 20th November.—The prices are declining, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.90 to \$2.95
" Round, Good quality	4.55 to 4.60
" Long	4.70 to 4.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.40 to 3.45
" Garden, " No. 1	4.15 to 4.20
" White,	4.75 to 4.80
" Fine Cargo	5.10 to 5.10

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 19th November.
Since the 5th ult., the movements in the various opium markets have been as follows:

Malwa Patna Benares Persian.					
Stocks as per circular of	5th ult., 1903.	Nov. 6th Imports per Cawas	391	1,431	419
5th ult., 1903. ..	1,304	—	—	2,028	169
" 8th " " C. Apcar —	414	—	135	—	—
" 31st " " A. Apcar —	60	—	6	—	—
" 3rd " " Armond Behic —	300	—	110	—	—
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	1,695	2,245	659	2,197	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight... .	203	345	245	—	—
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,317	1,141	233	1,898	—

Bengal.—Owing to the decline in exchange, rices advanced to \$1,130 for Patna and Benares, but the Chinese have been buying very cautiously. The Market closes quiet @ \$1,127½ for Patna and Benares. Bargains 7½ chests.

Malwa.—Although the Market has advanced in sympathy with the drop in exchange, the volume of business has been restricted.

New	\$920/30
2-2 years old	\$973/90
4-5 " "	\$1,000/30
Oldest " "	\$1,080/1,100

Persian.—Market is quiet. Quotations are \$800/810, for good long cakes, and \$750/60, for good square cakes. Inferior quality is neglected.

HONGKONG, 20th November.

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New \$920 to \$940 per picul.
Malwa Old \$970 to \$990 do.
Malwa Older \$1,020 to \$1,040 do.
Malwa V. Old \$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality \$810 to — do.
Persian extra fine \$820 to — do.
Patna New \$1,127½ to — per chest.
Benares New \$1,127½ to — do.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—Good business at a rise of \$1 per picul. Stocks about 1,200 bales.
Bombay..... 24.00 to 25.00 picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon { 24.00 to 26.50
and Dacca, }

Shanghai and Japanese, 29.00 to 30.00
Tungchow and Ningpo, 30.00 to 31.00
Sale:—1,000 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 20th November:—There is much less doing in this market, but at the close an undertone of strength is apparent which is giving dealers some encouragement, and a good demand is looked for towards the end of the month, when all harvesting operations will come to an end. The tightness of money amongst the natives, combined with the stagnation of trade generally throughout the

Southern Provinces, however, precludes the possibility of any considerable improvement taking place in the near future. The small business noted below is more or less of a retail character, and was put through during the early portion of the interval when Rupees touched 132, and sales to the extent of about 2,000 bales were effected at an advance of \$1 to \$2 per bale. Subsequently a slight improvement in exchange has again frightened away buyers, but holders are entirely indifferent, and a temporary check for the moment is being experienced, the market meanwhile closing firm.

Local Manufacture:—Continues firm, but experiencing no demand.

Japanese Yarns:—Are weak and sales of 200 bales Settay No 20s, at \$126½ are reported.

Raw Cotton:—In sympathy with the advance on the other side, New Crop Indian descriptions have been much more sensitive, and rates may be quoted 50 cents higher; 729 bales changing hands at from \$25.10 to \$26½ leaving a stock of about 700 bales on the market. In China kinds sales of 180 bales Ningpo at from \$30½ to \$31 are reported, the market being bare of stock. Quotations are Indian \$22 to \$27½ and China \$28 to \$32.

Exchange on India has continued to decline and closes weak to-day at Rs. 132½ for T.T and Rs. 132½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 86½.

The undenoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 6th instant, viz:—

Indian:—A moderate business has been done at unchanged prices, total sales amounting to 5,120 bales, comprising 60 bales No 6s, 1,675 bales No 10s, 470 bales No 12s, 250 bales No. 14s, 415 bales No. 16 and 2,220 bales No. 20s, market closing firm. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 83½ to 89 for No. 16s, and Tls. 90 to 94 for No. 20s, market closing quiet.

Local:—Total sales 6,000 bales on the basis of No. 10s, Tls. 85 to 86½, for No. 12s. Tls. 88 to 88½ for No. 14s, and Tls. 90 to 90½ for No. 16s, market closing steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. per yard

58 to 60 ,,	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 ,,	4.25 to 5.75
Fine.....	6.00 to 8.50

Book-folds 5.00 to 8.00

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.85 to 1.75

T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.30 to 2.80

7lbs. (32 "),	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "),	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05

Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs. 4.75 to 7.30

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS— per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks 0.72½ to 2.25

German — to —

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.50

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.95 to 9.30

Assorted 7.10 to 9.45

Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 33.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches { 12.50 to 22.50

Assorted — to —

Orleans—Plain, 31 in. 10.00 to —

per pair

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.60 to 0.80

Fine quality 1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.00 to —
Swedish Bar	4.05 to —
Small Round Rod	4.80 to —
Hoop 4 to 11/2 in.	6.00 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.00 to —
Wire Rope, Old	

November 21, 1903.]

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 20th November.

Beans	\$ 3
Borax	\$ 18
Camphor (China)	\$ 95
" (Formosa)	\$110 @ 123
Cassia (First quality)	\$ 25
" (Second ")	\$ 16
" Oil	\$ 75 @ 80
Cloves	\$ 32 @ 33
Fennel Seed Oil	\$330
Galangle	\$ 3 @ 51
Garlic	\$ —
Glue	\$ 28
Grapes	\$ 9 @ 10½
Ivory	\$200 @ 600
Kismiss	\$ 17 @ 21
Olibanum	\$ 5 @ 25
Rosa Oil	\$ 60 @ 175
Saltpetre	\$ 11 @ 13
Sandal wood	\$ 27 @ 32
" Oil	\$350 @ 400
Senna Leaves	\$ 4 @ 7
Sugar Candy	\$ 10 @ 16
Vermilion	\$ 86 @ 89
Wax	\$ 43 @ 48

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. Steamer *Bengal*, sailed on 7th Nov. For London:—245 rolls matting, 7 cases cigars, 1 case curios, 1 case blackwoodware, 20 bales raw silk, 6 cases silks, 14 half-chests tea. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Milan:—60 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—75 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—120 bales raw silk, 350 bales waste silk, 268 bales pierced cocoons, 3 cases feathers.

Per steamer *Tantalus*, sailed 11th November:—393 boxes congou (8,253 lbs.) 1,230 boxes scented caper (25,830 lbs.) 158 half-chests Oolong, 93 cases chinaware, 24 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases palm leaf fans, 36 cases gum, 5 cases shells, 40 cases essential oil, 39 cases effects, 50 casks soy, 142 rolls matting, 135 bales waste silk, 10 bales coir fibre, 6 bales hemp, 1½ packages sundries. For London and/or Glasgow:—240 casks ginger, 50 cases ginger. For Glasgow:—120 cases preserves. For Havre and/or Antwerp:—125 rolls mats. For Antwerp:—106 rolls matting, 6 bales canes.

Per steamer *Preussen*, sailed on 12th November. For Port Said:—12 cases blackwoodware. For Naples:—700 boxes cassia, 50 bales waste silk, 1 box silk. For Genoa:—245 bales raw silk, 200 bales waste silk, 59 rolls mats, 2 cases gongs, 1 case private effects. For Antwerp:—400 bales bamboo, 1 case blackwoodware, 1 case gin-ver. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—50 cases bristles. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg and/or London:—100 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—200 casks ginger, 28 cases tea sticks, 6 cases chinaware. For Amsterdam and/or Rotterdam:—445 cases ginger. For Rotterdam:—86 bales canes. For Bremen:—10 rolls mats, 4 cases chinaware, 3 cases curios. For Bremen and/or Hamburg:—19 cases chinaware. For Hamburg:—150 boxes cassia, 85 boxes essential oil, 75 cases bristles, 60 bales feathers, 64 bales canes, 20 cases cantharides, 19 cases chinaware, 12 cases human hair, 11 cases feathers, 5 cases vermillion, 4 cases sundries, 1 case curios, 1 case silverware. For Hamburg and/or London:—26 cases bristles. For Hamburg and/or Copenhagen:—100 bales feathers. For Copenhagen:—8 bales feathers. For London:—10 bales raw silks. For Buenos Ayres:—109 cases palmleaf fans, 8 cases sundries. For St. Petersburg:—2 packages skins, 1 bale hides.

Per P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, sailed on 14th November. For London:—5,889 boxes tea, 463 packages tea (Amoy), 50 bales feathers, 66 rolls matting, 12 cases camphorwood trunks, 22 cases woodware, 34 cases chinaware, 50 cases bristles, 1 case private effects. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For London and/or Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per steamer *Australien*, sailed on 17th November. For Marseilles:—115 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 15 cases silks, 5 cases feathers, 87 packages hair. For Lyons:—125 bales raw silk. For Milan:—65 bales raw silk. For London:—2 cases ginger.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 20th November.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 ½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 ½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 ½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 ½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 ½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 ½

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	224
ON GERMANY.—Credits 4 months' sight	27½
On demand	182
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	34
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	132½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	132½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	7 ½
Private, 30 days' sight	7 ½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	107½
ON HAIPHONG.—Or demand	1 ½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	59 70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th November, 1903.—With the exception of an advance in Chiua Sugars, nothing of importance has transpired during the past week, and business generally continues as restricted as before.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have ruled steady with sales and probable further buyers at \$640. There is no change in the London quotation, which remains at £63. Nationals appear to be somewhat firmer with reported buyers at \$29.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet at \$492½, with a small sale reported at the rate. China Traders are easier with sellers at \$60 after small sales at \$61.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Nothing has been done under this head, and quotations are unchanged at \$30 and \$90 respectively for Hongkongs and Chinas, with sellers of both stocks at the rates quoted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are somewhat weaker with sellers at \$31. Indo-Chinas are reported to have been sold to the North at \$76 for December delivery, but offers of further shares at this rate have brought no response, and the market closes weak with cash sellers at \$4. China and Manilas are unchanged with sellers at \$19, and Douglasses are now probably obtainable at \$30. Star Ferrys (old) can still be placed at \$26, and a small lot of new ones are enquired for at \$15½. Shell Transports are firmer with cash buyers at 19½.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars under a continued demand for cash shares have advanced to \$100 with buyers at the rate. Luzons are without change at \$10 sellers.

MINING.—No business is reported under this head, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are firm with buyers at \$204. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have firmed up and can now be placed to some extent at \$87. New Amoy Dock are still on offer at \$38. Farnhams are steadier with sales at Tls. 122½ and Tls. 125, with probable further buyers at the latter rate.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are still in the market at \$152, and West Points at \$52½. Kowloon Lands are quiet at \$35, and Humphreys Estates at \$10½ after sales at this figure. Hongkong Hotels are unchanged with sellers at \$147 and probable buyers at \$146.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged, and there is no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have improved to \$23 with sales at the rate. Ices are easier with sellers at \$247. Dairy Farms are quoted at \$12½ ex the dividend of \$1½ per share for 1902-1903 paid to-day. Campbell Moores have been booked at \$40. China Providents are steady with some sellers at \$9. Powells are enquired for at \$8½. Philippine Tobacco Trusts are in the market at \$15.

MEMOS:—Hongkong Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 24th instant. China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 8th December. Transfer books close on the 24th instant. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd. interim dividend of 50 cents per share payable at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank on the 30th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		*
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$64, sales L'don, £63
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	\$28	\$29, buyers
B. Shares	\$21	\$29, buyers
Foun. Shares...	\$21	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	\$21	\$5 ½, sellers
Canton, Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sales
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$9, sellers
ChinaLight & Power }	\$10	\$5
Co., Ltd.		
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$230
Philippine Tobacco }	\$50	\$15, sellers
Trust Co., Ltd.		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 33
International ...	Tls. 75	Tls. 22½
Lau Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 35
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 200
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½, ex div.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$23, sales
H. & C. Bakery.....	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric }	\$10	\$12 ½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$5	\$6 ½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$320, sellers
k. Steam Water- }	\$10	\$15 ½, buyers
Boat Co., Ltd.		
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$147, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$24 ½, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$87, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$204, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
China Fire	\$60	\$90, sellers
China Traders l...	\$25	\$6 ½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sellers
North China.....	\$25	Tls. 216,
Union	\$100	\$492 ½, sales
Yangtsze.....	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$152, sellers
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$10.75, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$45
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$52 ½, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$10, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50 cents, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$1.50, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	30 cents
Raubs	18/10	\$8, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$38, sellers
Powell, Ltd.....	\$10	\$8 ½, buyers
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$19, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30,
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$31, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$20	\$74, sellers
Shell Transport and }	\$21	19/- buyers
Trading Co.		
Star Ferry.....	\$10	{ \$26, buyers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	{ \$15 ½, buyers
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and		
Cleaning Co., Ltd	\$50	\$50, nominal
Tobrau Planting Co...	\$5	nominal
United Abestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.....	\$10	\$210 buyers
Universal Trading }	\$20	\$23, buyers
Co., Ltd		
Watkins Ld.....	\$10	\$71, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$14 ½, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 13th November.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their share report for the week ending November 13th, 1903.—We have had a busy week and a large business has been done in S. C. Farnham Boyd & Co., and Maatschappij, etc., in Langkawi at varying rates. There is no change to report in our money market and difficulties of finance are still being encountered. Exchange has dropped considerably and the T. T. rate is quoted at 2/5½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks remain without business at \$32½. £65 is the London quotation. Marine Insurance—China Traders have been sent to Hongkong at \$59½. Fire Insurance.—Nothing reported under

this heading. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have experienced another decline from Tls. 58½ November, down to Tls. 51. The December rate has dropped from Tls. 54 gradually to Tls. 52. For January Tls. 50 was done on the 11th, but improved yesterday to Tls. 51½. The last rate for March is Tls. 58 closing firmer all round. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. A sudden demand carried the price from Tls. 128 to 125 cash, and forward rates improved to Tls. 128 for December and March, but yesterday an unexpected weakness set in and shares fell from the above rates down to Tls. 120½ cash, 118 December, and 123 March, Sellers prevailing. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted in Hongkong at \$201 buyers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—These shares have been dealt in at \$2.5 and 218½ cash, and for March Tls. 223 and 222 is quoted. Sugar Companies.—Nothing reported. Lands.—Shares have been placed at Tls. 100½ and 101 for cash. Industrial.—Cottons. Nothing reported. Shanghai Gas.—A single transaction at Tls. 108. China Flours remain at Tls. 65 cash, c.n.i. at par. Shanghai Pulps. Tls. 107½ cash, Tls. 110 and 111 for March. Sumatras. Tls. 49½ and 50 cash. Maatschappij &c., in Langkats.—Our market has been very erratic this week, having advanced from Tls. 275 November, to 290. At this rate sellers came out and our market quickly subsided to Tls. 280. A reaction set in and we close with buyers at Tls. 282½ for cash. Forward rates have improved in sympathy with the cash market, and we will merely quote the closing rates of Tls. 287½ December and 300 March. It is impossible to follow this market from day to day, and no reason can be given for these extraordinary rapid changes. Stores and Hotels.—Hall & Holtz have been placed at \$32. Astor House Hotel shares are steadily rising and \$27 and \$28 have been done. Centrals have been negotiated at \$26. Miscellaneous.—Nothing reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 20th November.—Business continues very dull, with little demand for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 7 cents nominally. From Newchwang to Canton, 3 steamers closed at 22 cents per picul, these being the last fixtures of the season. The port of Newchwang is expected to be closed about the 25th inst. Moji to this, \$1.75 last; to Manila, \$2.75; to Amoy, \$2.00; to Singapore, \$2.10 per ton. Time charters. The German steamer *China* has been taken up by local charterers at \$5,000 per month for 6 months. The following are the settlements:—

Chinkiang—British steamer, 1,229 tons, Newchwang to Canton (24,000 piculs), 22 cents per picul.

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.

Prima—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Karatzu to Manila, \$2.75 per ton.

Ulbrand—Norwegian steamer, 1,269 tons, Karatzu to Hongkong, \$1.85 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.

Hopseang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.

Terje Viteen—Norwegian steamer, 2,304 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.10 per ton.

Wingsang—British steamer, 1,511 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.80 per ton.

Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$2.20 per ton.

Taiju—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$2.00 per ton.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$1.30 per ton.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$5,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

November—

14. *Benvorlich*, British str., from Moji.
14. *Glenfalloch*, British str., from Straits.
14. *Triumph*, German str., from Hoihow.
14. *Tyr*, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
14. *Yiksang*, British str., from Newchwang.
14. *Zafiro*, U.S. collier, from Cavite.
15. *China*, Austrian str., from Singapore.
15. *Hailan*, French str., from Pakhoi.
15. *Hailoong*, British str., from Swatow.
15. *Manila*, British str., from Antwerp.
16. *Australien*, French str., from Shanghai.

16. *Hinsang*, British str., from Hongay.
16. *Hoihao*, French str., from Haiphong.
16. *Ichang*, British str., from Wuhan.
16. *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
16. *Maidzuru Maru*, Jap. str., from Anping.
16. *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
16. *Michael Jebsen*, German str., from Pakhoi.
16. *Olympia*, American str., from Tacoma.
16. *Prometheus*, British str., from Liverpool.
16. *Sullberg*, German str., from Newchwang.
17. *Alge iue*, British sloop, from Ningpo.
17. *Armand Behic*, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
17. *Arratoon Appear*, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
17. *Cboysang*, British str., from Shanghai.
17. *Laert s*, British str., from Saigon.
17. *Mongkut*, German str., from Bangkok.
17. *Purnea*, British str., from Calcutta.
17. *Thales*, British str., from Swatow.
17. *Tsinan*, British str., from Kobe.
17. *Ulabrand*, Norwegian str., from Moji.
17. *Zafiro*, British str., from Manila.
18. *Amphitrite*, British cr., from Singapore.
18. *Anping Maru*, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
18. *Aragonie*, German str., from Hamburg.
18. *Esang*, British str., from Newchwang.
18. *Haimun*, British str., from Swatow.
18. *Houng Bee*, British str., from Straits.
18. *Onsang*, British str., from Java.
18. *Rohilla Maru*, Japanese str., from Manila.
18. *Tamba Maru*, Japanese str., from London.
18. *Weosung*, British str., from Shanghai.
19. *Calabria*, Italian cruiser, from Shanghai.
19. *Empire*, British str., from Kobe.
19. *Hailoong*, British str., from Swatow.
19. *Holstein*, German str., from Haiphong.
19. *Iltis*, German gunboat, from Canton.
19. *Mandisan Maru*, Jap. str., from Kintzu.
19. *Nippon*, Austrian str., from Japan.
19. *Perla*, British str., from Manila.
19. *Toto Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
19. *Yeddo*, British str., from Portland.
19. *Yuensang*, British str., from Manila.

NOVEMBER—DEPARTURES.

15. *Daigi Maru*, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
15. *Euplectella*, British str., for Singapore.
15. *Rosetta Maru*, Japanese str., for Manila.
15. *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., for Canton.
16. *Achilles*, British str., for Shanghai.
16. *Flintshire*, British str., for Shanghai.
16. *Meefoo*, Chinese str., for Canton.
16. *Progress*, German str., for Hoihow.
16. *Sullberg*, German str., for Canton.
17. *Aki Maru*, Japanese str., for Seattle.
17. *Armand Behic*, French str., for Shanghai.
17. *Australien*, French str., for Europe.
17. *Ayr*, Norwegian str., for Moji.
17. *Carl Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
17. *Changsha*, British str., for Kobe.
17. *Cuiyuen*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17. *Glenfalloch*, British str., for Amoy.
17. *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.
17. *Hongkong*, French str., for Hoihow.
17. *Hsin Fung*, Chinese str., for Canton.
17. *Ichang*, British str., for Canton.
17. *Kweilin*, British str., for Shanghai.
17. *Loongmoon*, German str., for Canton.
17. *Manila*, British str., for Shanghai.
17. *M. Struve*, German str., for Haiphong.
17. *Prometheus*, British str., for Shanghai.
17. *Rajaburi*, German str., for Bangkok.
17. *Shakano Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
17. *Waterwitch*, British surv.-ship, for a cruise.
17. *Yiksang*, British str., for Canton.
18. *China*, Austrian str., for Kobe.
18. *Choysang*, British str., for Canton.
18. *Empress of India*, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
18. *Gregory Appear*, British str., for Calcutta.
18. *Hailan*, French str., for Pakhoi.
18. *Hohao*, French str., for Haiphong.
18. *Kaifong*, British str., for Manila.
18. *Maidzuru Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
18. *Rajaburi*, German str., for Bangkok.
18. *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., for Amoy.
18. *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.
18. *Tjilatjap*, Dutch str., for Moji.
18. *Tsinan*, British str., for Australia.
18. *Tsintau*, German str., for Swatow.
18. *Wakamatsu Maru*, Japanese str., for Moji.
18. *Wuchang*, British str., for Amoy.
19. *Arnold Luyken*, German str., for Tientsin.
19. *Esang*, British str., for Canton.
19. *Glenfarg*, British str., for Shanghai.
19. *Kowloon*, German str., for Kobe.
19. *Kwangping*, Chinese str., for Saanghai.
19. *Loosok*, German str., for Bangkok.
19. *Purnea*, British str., for Rangoon.
19. *Triumph*, German str., for Hoihow.
19. *Tungshing*, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Graves, Mrs. C. R. Craig, Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Grey and infant, Mrs. C. Mayers, Mrs. H. T. Boszan and infant, Mrs. C. Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. S. Yajima, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Spring, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Wm. Renwick, Mrs. S. La Grave, Mrs. L. Crawford, Mrs. Alice Hobbs, Mrs. Mrs. Florence Somnier, Rev. O. Gregory, Dr. W. J. Mallory, Bishop C. H. Brent, Misses L. Maxwell, A. E. Lee, Hutchinson, and Hunting (2), Messrs. A. H. Putney, J. A. Kirby, C. R. Bangs, F. L. Craig, R. H. Robson, H. Luzuriaga, H. M. Icktis, A. H. Perry, H. H. Glover, O. E. Lutzenheiser, A. S. Allan, J. Iwaya, C. C. Mead, J. E. Rooney, R. Hacock, F. L. Gunther, H. P. Wedgewood, Hunting, Rossmassler, W. G. Kenwick, A. G. Ward, and S. Rossi.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Japan, Miss Guido te, Messrs. G. Guidote, V. Guidote, Haga born, Guillelmo, Heon, and Favier; from Shanghai, Mrs. Serpièri, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Capt. O. P. Marshall, Messrs. Davis, Figueiredo, A. Grenstock, Brown, Winney, Richardson, D. E. Brown, Boos, Vaughan, Mantner, Mumford, Munchmeyer, Forot de Praneuf, John Bailey, John Godfrey, T. Roberts, Marot, Dubernard, Daverio, and L. A. Joseph; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mrs. Louise Lay, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Loftus Thacwell, Messrs. George, Habich, and Obidovsky; for Marseilles, from Japan, Messrs. Fortoul, Brohan, Eugé, and Machard; from Shanghai, Comtesse de Lesdaine, Colonel de Grandpry, Messrs. Pila, Potel, and Mizrahi.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mrs. Dulot; from Colombo, Messrs. Fletcher, Vatel, Daruwallo, Bhesania and Patell, Sisters Benedicta, Etheldudo, Bernadine, Zélia, Aut. de Brives and Léonie; from Singapore, Messrs. J. Van den Hursk and Bouhet; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Ascoli, Mr. and Mrs. Bérindoagne, Mr. and Mrs. Latard, Messrs. A. Schmidtborn, Tiersonier, Monmayeur, Matsuh Otayo, Grohé, and Lussen; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Chollet and two children, Lieuts. Guichard and Grasset, Capt. Martin, Miss Mathilde, Messrs. R. Saker, L. Peel, C. Williams, H. D. Lyndall, H. D. Hilliard, F. Caissal, Poullain, Duguesne, Rivat, J. A. Barnie and Thermé; from Port Said, Mr. Salim Award; from Colombo, Rev. S. Darmené, Messrs. Bourhoux, J. B. Kharas, Navavati, Martin, Shanker Jettier, Jean Nicolaidis and Lambre; from Saigon, Mr. Henriot; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Schwab and child, Consul and Mrs. Steenakers, Miss Joubert, Messrs. J. Proton, Mistral Bernard, Nishio, Nagasaki, and Roumanille; from Colombo, Messrs. Moreau, Odenthal, Fortin, Donin, Vallés, Gerbund, Laboy, Comet, Marques, G. Jau, and Rhugwager; from Singapore, Mr. David Ideloritch; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Lurua; for Kobe, from Colombo, Messrs. Abdul Kadir and Nichita.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from London, &c., Bishop, Mr. and Master Foss, Rev., Mrs. and Miss Campbell, Mrs. and Miss Nazro, Mr. and Mrs. K. Okura, Misses Greenough and Woodruffe, Rev. Guerny, Messrs. Waite, Beswick, Davidson, Nomweiter, Mellor, and Tomlinson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Doric*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. V. Samwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Camer, Mrs. J. Cogan, Messrs. A. B. Ross, C. E. Le Munyon, T. E. Griffith, E. G. Jordon, J. Mande and D. D. Thomson; for Yokohama, Mr. Levy; for San Francisco, Capt. V. Berg, Messrs. E. Dose and John Phillips.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. M. T. Selby, Mrs. Toyo, Misses C. E. Waters and M. T. Mellor, Vice, Consul J. J. Leiria, Corporal Fletcher, Messrs. E. A. Griffiths, E. H. Aquino, L. Knox, A. B. Moulder, M. M. Bulder, Geo. F. Lang, O. R. Coales, K. Kawata, and K. Sakata.

Per *Tsinan*, for Manila and Australian ports, Mrs. A. H. Beaumont, Mrs. E. T. Hill, Mrs. S. A. Cornell, Messrs. J. G. Noyes, A. W. Jones, H. Mortenson, J. Barry, H. Kogama, and K. Ogawa.

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